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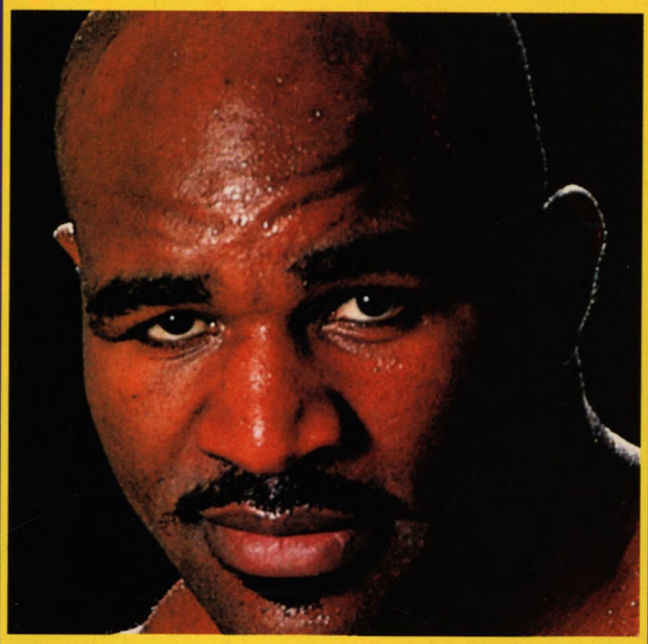
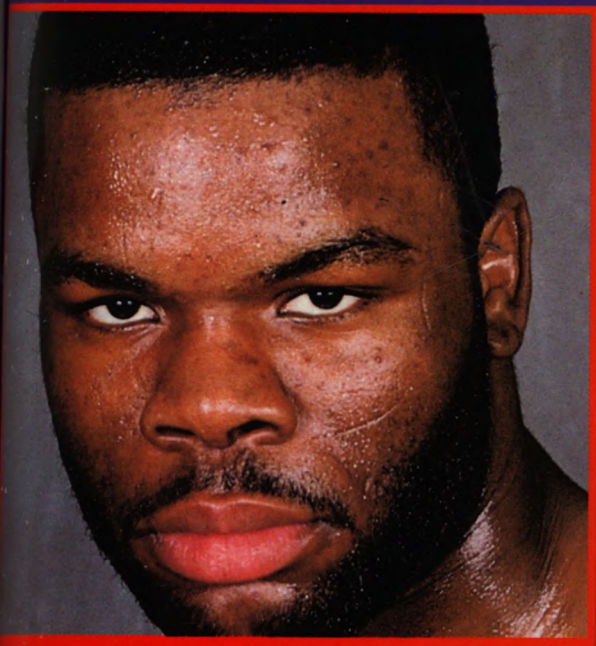


EVANDER HOLYFIELD vs. LENNOX LEWIS



MICHAEL GRANT vs. ANDREW GOLOTA

ALSO INSIDE:

- Tony Ayala
- Arturo Gatti
- Michael Carbajal

HOLIDAY 1999

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RINGSIDE

If, as some believe, boxing is a metaphor for life, then there are few things about the game more reassuring than the comeback. It doesn't matter if it occurs in the middle of a round, halfway through a fight, or at the tail end of a career, the comeback strengthens our faith in the power of persistence and gives us hope for a better tomorrow. And although a large portion of this issue is dedicated to previewing a pair of upcoming heavyweight bouts of major significance, there's also a trio of articles concerning three distinctly different types of comebacks and the men who made them.

Managing Editor Eric Raskin's penetrating piece "Arturo Gatti Finally Gets His Win ... But At What Cost?" *(page 36)* examines how an effort to halt Gatti's losing skid, by matching him with an easy opponent, almost resulted in a tragedy. While Gatti's on the winning track again, there will be no comeback for Reyes Munoz, the man Gatti flattened to resurrect his career.

Michael Carbajal's case was totally different than Gatti's. Nobody outside of the aging ex-champ's camp was trying to rejuvenate his career. Quite the contrary. Carbajal was imported to Tijuana, Mexico, as fodder for up-and-coming local favorite Jorge Arce, a well-known name to enhance the youngster's resume. But proud Carbajal had other ideas. Trailing hopelessly, one eye swollen closed, the other bleeding, he changed the course of the fight with one storybook punch, providing fans with a comeback classic that won't soon be forgotten. Don't miss Ted Bodenrader's insightful account, "Power Surge Saves Carbajal's Comeback" *(page 40)*.

Perhaps no fighter has ever come back from so far, or from such depths, as Tony Ayala Jr. Following 17 years away from the ring, 16 of which were spent in prison, Ayala returned to action in front of a cheering hometown crowd in San Antonio, Texas, and regular RING contributor Bernard Fernandez was ringside to bring readers a vivid, firsthand account, "Tony Ayala's Triumphant Return: Still Undefeated After 19 Years" *(page 44)*. This ongoing saga of a man fighting for both professional and personal redemption gives his particular comeback an extra layer of meaning.

If there is a common thread that runs through the comebacks of Gatti, Carbajal, and Ayala, it is their inexorable belief in themselves. Each, in his own way, had been written off by others, but refused to yield to popular opinion. And in doing so, they provided both a lesson and a measure of inspiration for all of us.

***

I was distressed to learn that three-division former champion Alexis Arguello is strung out on crack cocaine and suicidal. The Nicaraguan admitted he had a coke problem back in 1985, shortly before launching a comeback he hoped would vanquish the inner demons that had driven him to abuse drugs. Two winning fights into the comeback, he quit again, sighting a heart ailment. There was another aborted comeback in '94, which ended when clubfighter Scott Walker proved that the marvelous skills Arguello once possessed were now just a faded memory.

It's ironic that Arguello would fall victim to the same addiction that brought down his greatest ring rival, Aaron Pryor. But the heartbreaking truth is that many of the sport's biggest heroes need boxing to maintain their equilibrium outside of the ring. Without it, they are lost souls blindly searching for some new meaning to their lives. Sadly, most never find it. Let's hope Arguello is the exception.

Nigel Collins
Editor-in-Chief

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COME OUT WRITING

We welcome your letters, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. The opinions expressed by our readers in their letters to the editor are not necessarily the opinions of THE RING or its publisher. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

CAN'T WE ALL GET ALONG?

I am writing to comment on all of the hype about the bad blood between Fernando Vargas and Oscar De La Hoya. I don't understand why Vargas dislikes De La Hoya so much. If anything, I think De La Hoya has paved the way for young, talented Chicano fighters from this side of the border to make it in the big time.

It's bad enough that the people from our own ancestry don't back you young guns on this side of the border. Now the promoters have you, De La Hoya and Vargas, against each other for no real reason except for their own gain. As soon as these promoters get a talented Chicano fighter in their stable, right away they want to turn you against each other for their benefit, not the fighters'.

Vargas is a very talented fighter whose day will come, I'm sure. So I hope he will not continue to bad-mouth his own, because we have come too far as a race to start hating one another.

Please don't let the greed of these promoters and the media get to you guys. I know you two will be powerful forces in this sport for a long time, and we as a race will get the respect that we have earned and deserve.

MARK FERNANDEZ
Pittsburg, CA

Why can't Fernando Vargas get along with fellow Chicano champion Oscar De La Hoya, wonders reader Mark Fernandez? The two have sparred verbally in public, since IBF junior middleweight champ Vargas alleges "The Golden Boy" snubbed him when he was an amateur.

NO JUSTICE IN JERSEY

A long time ago, I wrote to say that while I felt Larry Hazzard was a good referee, he was a disaster as the commissioner of boxing in New Jersey. The recent decision in the Frans Botha-Shannon Briggs fight was a perfect example of what I meant. As commissioner, he should have reversed that decision and given the fight to Botha. Briggs has had two gift decisions in New Jersey recently (the other coming against George Foreman). What's the story here? The worst decisions I've seen in the last two years have all been in the Jersey area.

I don't like Botha as a fighter; he simply has no talent. But what he did show was a great heart and a desire to win, and he did enough to win. As a person who has watched championship fights since the 1920s, I gave Botha seven out of the 10 rounds.

Come on, Commissioner, show us you're really interested in boxing—not politics—and give the fight to Botha.

WALTER MAGNOLA
Holbrook, NY

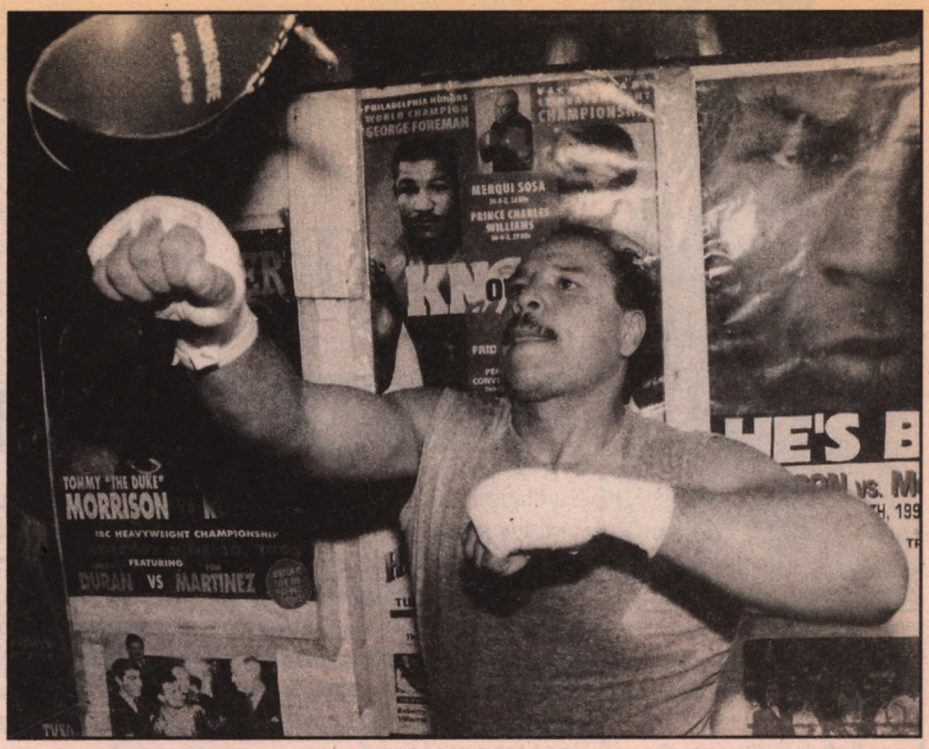
JUDGING JUDGES

I've enjoyed the interesting and well-expressed comments on fight scoring that have been published in your pages since the Evander Holyfield-Lennox Lewis fight. However, I don't think finding a new scoring system is the answer. Officials of integrity and with a thorough knowledge of boxing will turn in accurate tallies whatever system they use. As for officials who don't have those qualities, not even Stephen Hawking could devise a system to improve matters. God knows how we'll ever see a change for the better as long as the "alphabet boys" are running things.

FRED SIMMERLEIN
Madison, WI

AYALA THE UNDERDOG

I have always been the type of person who roots for the underdog. I'm a sucker for an upset. And in the sport of boxing, I'm always pulling for that fighter who is overmatched or a little past his prime or just plain washed-up. I love it when one of those guys proves their critics wrong by pulling off an upset against a guy that everyone bet on to win. But more often than not, that underdog will do exactly what he is supposed to do: lose.



Tony Ayala Jr. will get some special backing from reader Tracy Jenkins, who roots for Ayala partially because he seems to be such an underdog to return to the role of top contender.

Most people agree that Tony Ayala Jr.'s chances of becoming a top contender again are very slim. He has spent the last 16 years behind bars. He's older, his reflexes are undoubtedly slower, he's not in as good a shape as he once was, and he lost years of valuable training and experience. So why does everyone, including myself, seem to be interested and excited about Tony's comeback? Simple: He's our underdog.

TRACY JENKINS
Salyersville, KY

THROWING FITZ

I've been following boxing for 35 years and I have listened to other fans, experts, and critics give their opinions on who was the best fighter in their respective divisions. Most times I have agreed or understood, because these fighters were usually in my top 10 as well. But after watching *Friday Night Fights* on ESPN2 recently, I can honestly say I've heard it all.

After watching the "Classic Kayo" in which Bob Fitzsimmons knocked out Jim Corbett for the heavyweight title in 1897, studio commentator Max Kellerman said, "Many people were saying at that time that Bob Fitzsimmons was the best middleweight champion of all-time. Even into the 1920s, many people thought that about Fitzsimmons."

I've never thought much of Kellerman, but he really lost it calling Fitzsimmons the best. This is the same Bob Fitzsimmons who defended the middleweight title twice in six years as champion. True, Fitzsimmons knocked out the great and underrated "Nonpariel" Jack Dempsey to win the title, but he didn't do much after that.

Forget Fitzsimmons being the best. Sugar Ray Robinson would have knocked out Fitzsimmons, and Stanley Ketchel would have done so within five rounds. Carlos Monzon would have boxed his ears off, so would Marcel Cerdan, Harry Greb, and Marvin Hagler. Bob Fitzsimmons was a great fighter in his day, but he wasn't the best in any of the divisions.

ED SENESA
Harrisburg, PA

STILL A HOLY BELIEVER

To everyone it may concern, it's time to stop crying over the spilled milk. I'm referring to the Evander Holyfield-Lennox Lewis decision. I've just finished reading "Lost Faith In Holyfield," a letter by one Clifford Munroe printed in "Come Out Writing" in the September 1999 RING. In his letter, Mr. Monroe claims to have once been a fan of Holyfield's. This is total crap. This guy is no different than your average bandwagon fan. This guy has the audacity to suggest that Holyfield should simply hand his belts over to Lewis. That's insane. Don't get me wrong, Holyfield fought a lousy fight. But why didn't Lewis capitalize on Holyfield's shortcomings and knock him out, or at least come close to flooring the champ?

I believe that Holyfield-Lewis II will be no different than the second Holyfield-Michael Moorer fight. In my opinion, Mr. Munroe should take a detour. The Holyfield Highway is only open to true fans.

SHAWN TRAVIS
Chicago, IL ■

ROUND ONE

AN ACTOR AND A GENTLEMAN

Mafiosos, transvestite hookers, and Gerry Cooney. It sounds like the setup to a Carnac joke, but, in fact, it's a roll call of what you'll find in the new independent film *Mob Queen*, an off-beat comedy featuring "Gentleman Gerry" in a small but scene-stealing role as Mickey the baker.

"We had a great time making the movie, a lot of laughs," said Cooney, whose acting resume also includes small roles on *Ryan's Hope*, *General Hospital*, *Spencer: For Hire*, and *The Simpsons* (as himself). "When it comes to acting, I don't really look for work, but if I have the time and it looks like fun, I'll usually do it. Acting's like anything you do in life. Sure, I feel some nerves when the cameras start rolling, and it takes a little while to get confident. But the more you do it, the more you relax and just have a good time."

Mob Queen is the story of a low-level mobster named George (David Proval of *The Sopranos*) who, eager to impress his boss, Joey "The Heart" Aorta (Tony Sirico, also of *The Sopranos*), gets him a prostitute, Glorice (Candis Cayne), for his birthday. But after Aorta falls in love with the working girl, George discovers she's actually a working *guy* dressed in drag, and has to prevent the mob boss' relationship with her from getting to point where Aorta discovers her secret, lest George end up sleeping with the fishes. Cooney's Mickey is a friend of Aorta's, and the former heavyweight contender gets to score the movie's knockout blow at the end with a performance that screenwriter Mike Horelick said "had the entire crew in stitches."

"The mob boss is getting married to the prostitute," Cooney explained, "and at the wedding, he sees her balls and has a heart attack. So at the funeral, I just break down crying, really broken up. It's gotten a great reaction."

The movie, shot on a budget of just $210,000 in Brooklyn, presented Cooney with some extra challenges because it wasn't exactly run like a major Hollywood studio production. When Cooney went to New York to get fitted for his wardrobe, there was no doorman at the office building to work the elevator, and Cooney was left feeling like he'd gone back into training after climbing 18 flights of steps to get to first-time director Jon Carnoy's office.

"After I had to walk up all those steps, I thought, *I'm really gonna earn my money with this one*," said Cooney, who spends most of his time these days working with the F.I.S.T. Foundation, an institute he began a couple of years ago to help ex-fighters make the transition to life after boxing. "But you know, everyone else working on the movie had to walk up all those steps, too. Those guys were really fighting to get this movie made, and I was glad to help out. I always like to root for the underdog."

The Hollywood equivalent of a four-rounder in a tiny club, the movie only hit select art house screens upon its release in late-August, but it will be available on video next February.

—Eric Raskin

Photo by "Rat" Milton

Cooney, flanked by co-stars Candis Cayne and Marlene Forte, bakes up comedy in Mob Queen

SHE'S BAAAAACK!

Williams: Controversial judge comes back

Before March 13, 1999, no one knew nor recognized Eugenia Williams. But as she wended her way around the ring on a small club show in Wilmington, Delaware, on August 24, Williams received a few looks. It was Williams, fight fans will instantly recall, who turned in the infamous 115-113 score favoring Evander Holyfield in the heavyweight unification bout with Lennox Lewis on March 13 at Madison Square Garden, a fight nearly every observer felt Lewis had won.

Williams' scoring came under considerable criticism, and Williams herself endured enormous scrutiny soon after. She was investigated and publicly embarrassed, but she was never charged with any wrongdoing.

So on a card promoted by Dee Lee Promotions and Nick Tiberi, five months later, there was Williams judging for the first time since the Holyfield-Lewis debacle. She worked all eight fights on the show, and of the six that went to the scorecards, she rendered no controversial tallies.

"We received a letter from her attorney stating there were no charges ever brought against Eugenia," said Greg Sirb, the executive director of the Pennsylvania State Athletic Commission who was there on behalf of the Association of Boxing Commissioners, since Delaware has no state athletic commission. "We talked to someone at the FBI who was investigating the case, and he said there were no charges brought against her, so we decided to use her. It's just a small club show in a state with no athletic commission. We wanted to ease her back into judging and see what she's been doing. It doesn't guarantee she'll get any extra work, I just wanted to make sure she was treated fairly like any judge, black or white, male or female."

—Joe Santoliquito

THE BOXING BOOKSHELF

The problem with boxing fiction is that nothing a writer dreams up in his imagination can possibly be as extraordinary as what actually takes place in the outlandish world of the prize ring. This is all-too obvious in some of the lesser works included in *Boxing's Best Short Stories* (Chicago Review Press, 330 pages, $24 hardcover), the latest sports anthology edited by Paul D. Staudohar, who also compiled similar collections of football, baseball, and golf fiction. Many of the plots, even from such celebrated authors as Damon Runyon, Ellery Queen, and O. Henry, are hackneyed and/or riddled with stereotypical characters.

Thankfully, a respectable number of the stories are so well-written that they overcome the major dilemma inherent in the genre. "The Croxly Master" by Arthur Conan Doyle is a wonderful piece set in the Welsh mining country at the turn of the century. Doyle, an ardent boxing fan, is just as brilliant here as he is chronicling the exploits of his most famous creation, Sherlock Holmes. P.G. Wodehouse's "The Debut Of Battling Billson" is also a splendidly crafted tale that showcases the sardonic sense of humor that made Wodehouse's novels such as *My Man Jeeves* and *The Butler Did It* so popular.

Other excellent entries include the bittersweet "A Piece Of Steak" by Jack London and Ring Lardner's "Champion," which was made into a 1949 movie of the same name, starring Kirk Douglas as one of the nastiest individuals to ever pull on a pair of boxing gloves. (Just for starters, he beats up his crippled brother and his mother!) Although most of the stories were written in the first half of the 20th century, "Sonny Liston Was A Friend Of Mine" by Thom Jones, which first appeared in *The New Yorker* in 1997, proves that in the right hands, boxing fiction can still be just as meaningful as any other literary endeavor.

—Nigel Collins

Jack Johnson wrote a couple of versions of his life story and is the subject of a movie (*The Great White Hope*) and two fine biographies. But you'd be hard-pressed to find a more plausible and entertaining depiction of the first black heavyweight champion of the world than in Antonia Logue's fascinating and literate novel *Shadow-Box* (Grove Press, 308 pages, $24 hardcover).

The book consists of correspondence between "Li'l Artha" and early-20th century poetess Mina Loy in 1946, concerning their relationship decades earlier with a man known as Arthur Craven, Fabian Lloyd, and various other names during his strange life as an artist, boulevardier, forger, spy, and sometimes heavyweight boxer who took a dive in a 1916 bout against Johnson in Madrid that is actually listed on the then ex-champion's record. Craven and Loy were great, soulful lovers, he and Johnson soulmates. Her lyrical, lengthy reminisces about the former sometimes made me want to fast-forward through them like the middle rounds of a Tony Tubbs fight, the quicker to get back to Johnson's accounts of his own life and loves and his alluring descriptions of his fights against Tommy Burns, Stanley Ketchel, Jim Jeffries, Jess Willard, and the U.S. government.

The accounts are extraordinary and largely historically accurate, and it is entirely possible to imagine the man vilified and persecuted essentially for having the wrong skin tone writing about how he "belted [Jeffries] three sharp blows to the face and then swung him away, a door on a hinge, with a flying uppercut under the chin. He tottered, eyes closed, and I went gentler knowing how close he was to being floored and wanting to drag it out, brand this humiliation into the memories of every sorry evil little bastard out there in the crowd, in that town, in this great country of ours, who had hollered and whooped about the nigger getting killed, the coon being taught how to eat s_ _ _ the American way. Well, this was the American way and it was my way and Jim Jeffries would eat it for them, for every last one of them."

For boxing fans, such passages alone make this a worthwhile book. But be warned: There is a point to the exchange of reminiscences that you'll miss by not concentrating equally on the Loy narratives. There are nuances and subtlety and a deft plot line interwoven here that could elude you altogether unless you pay strict attention. Do not read with the kids headbutting one another in front of your chair and Max Kellerman laying down the law on *Friday Night Fights*.

—Pete Ehrmann

TV FIGHTS OF THE MONTH

DATE	WINNER/LOSER	NETWORK	DIVISION	SIGNIFICANCE	MATCHUP	RESULT
8-13-99	John Brown W 10 Francisco Cruz	ESPN2	jl	C+	C	C+
"The Eastern Beast" carves out one-sided win over tough but limited Cruz						
8-13-99	**Mark Johnson Tech. Win 8 Jorge Lacierva**	**ESPN2**	**IBF jb**	**A-**	**D**	**B**
Johnson survives some shaky moments early; Lacierva tougher than advertised						
8-14-99	Arturo Gatti KO 1 Reyes Munoz	HBO	jw	B	F	D
One overhand right does it for Gatti in awful mismatch						
8-14-99	**Stevie Johnston W 12 Angel Manfredy**	**HBO**	**WBC l**	**A+**	**A+**	**A**
"Li'l But Bad" sizzles in virtuoso performance, stakes claim as world's best lightweight						
8-20-99	James Coker KO 8 Lalo Gutierrez	PPV	m	C	B-	B
Exciting slugfest all the way; Coker proves tough showing against David Reid no fluke						
8-20-99	Jesse James Leija W 10 Verdell Smith	PPV	l	C+	D+	C
Leija may not be exciting, but he's one of the best pure boxers around						
8-20-99	Tony Ayala Jr. KO 3 Manuel Esparza	PPV	m	C-	B	C+
No, Ayala didn't look particularly impressive; do you want to tell him?						
8-20-99	Robert Frazier D 10 Robert West	ESPN2	jm	D	B	C-
Second hard-luck draw for Frazier in as many outings						
8-20-99	**Paul Spadafora W 12 Israel Cardona**	**ESPN2**	**IBF l**	**A**	**B+**	**B**
Upset! Smooth-boxing Spadafora spanks listless Cardona to win vacant title						
8-21-99	**Kostya Tszyu KO 10 Miguel Angel Gonzalez**	**Show**	**WBC jw**	**A**	**A-**	**B**
We thought we were getting a good fight; what we got was a replay of Tszyu-Rafael Ruelas						
8-23-99	Agapito Sanchez W 10 Marcos Badillo	FOXSN	f	C+	C	D+
Not an especially good win for Sanchez, who must impress to stay in title hunt						
8-27-99	Larry Marks W 10 Brandon Mitchem	ESPN2	jm	C-	B+	B-
Marks schools willing but outclassed hometown kid Mitchem						
8-27-99	Vivian Harris KO 5 Isander Lacen	ESPN2	jw	C	B	C
Highly touted Harris gets the job done, but we expected more						
8-27-99	Vernon Forrest KO 7 Santiago Samaniego	ESPN2	w	B+	D	C+
Wouldn't it be grand if Forrest got the winner of De La Hoya-Trinidad?						
8-28-99	Lance Whitaker W 12 Monte Barrett	HBO	h	B-	A-	D+
If Whitaker would learn to punch more and slap less, he might make a good sparring partner						
8-28-99	**David Reid W 12 Keith Mullings**	**HBO**	**WBA jm**	**A**	**A-**	**D**
Credit Reid for easy win, but will he ever be fun to watch again?						
9-3-99	Teddy Reid KO 1 Jose Aponte	ESPN2	jw	C+	C-	B
Hard-slugging Reid calls out Zab Judah after dominant performance; we wouldn't mind seeing it						
9-3-99	Ivan Robinson W 12 James Crayton	ESPN2	l	B+	B-	B
Robinson does just enough to stay in the lightweight title mix						

Category Explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' futures; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.

(World title fights in **bold** type)

Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight

Network key: PPV—Pay-Per-View; Show—Showtime; FOXSN–Fox SportsNet; Uni–Univision

EVA SHAIN, 1918-1999

Frank and Eva Shain: A ringside fixture for more than 20 years

When cancer claimed Eva Shain on August 19, the sport was not only deprived of one of its pioneer female judges, it also lost one its most popular teams, that of Eva and her ring announcer husband, Frank. The ubiquitous duo had been a ringside staple since the mid-1970s, when Eva received her judge's license from the New York State Athletic Commission.

"Eva and Carol Polis both applied for licenses at the same time," said Frank. "But Carol got to work a bout a few days before Eva, so she wasn't technically the first."

Shain's professional judging debut was the Vito Antuofermo-Bruce Cantrell fight in Commack, New York, on November 28, 1975. The last bout she judged was the Johnny Tapia-Nana Konadu fight, on December 5, 1998. In between, she worked more than 5,000 fights and tallied several firsts for her gender. Among those was being the first woman to judge a world heavyweight title fight, which occurred on September 29, 1977, when she worked the Muhammad Ali-Earnie Shavers match at Madison Square Garden.

When asked afterward what he thought about a woman being one of the judges, Ali first wanted to know what her score had been. When informed she'd voted for him 9-6, Ali smiled and said, "She's a mighty fine judge."

Before every bout she worked, Eva Shain would say a silent prayer, asking God to protect the boxers and help her make the right decision. The Sweet Science won't be quite as sweet without her.

—Nigel Collins

JERRY BALLARD, 1967-1999

Ballard: Street life catches up to hard-hitting heavyweight

Photo by Joy Lash

Fringe heavyweight contender Jerry Ballard was found stabbed to death in an alley on August 3 in his hometown of Washington, D.C. The gregarious Ballard, 32, who served more than two years in prison in the early-1990s, had been unable to escape street life despite the promise of his professional career.

Ballard had sniffed around the outer reaches of the WBC and IBF rankings before being knocked out last year by John Ruiz on the Evander Holyfield-Vaughn Bean undercard. At the time of his death, Ballard had been brooding about his inability to get more fights from his promoter, Don King.

Ballard, who turned pro in 1991, compiled a 21-2-1 (21) record. He won the lightly regarded IBO heavyweight title on June 28, 1996, with a ferocious sixth-round knockout of crosstown rival Corey "T-Rex" Sanders. A power outage during the bout plunged the arena into darkness, but when the lights came back on, Ballard turned Sanders' out. An ecstatic Ballard could be seen wearing the title belt virtually everywhere for the next two months. He also went 61-2 as an amateur, winning titles at the Ohio State Fair and D.C. Golden Gloves.

Ballard, who was managed by DeWayne Chambers and trained by former amateur star Norman Smith at the Sugar Ray Leonard Boxing Center in Palmer Park, Maryland, won his last bout, a second-round stoppage of journeyman Garing Lane in April. Despite his susceptibility to fighting with street thugs, Ballard had a sweet disposition and was well-liked in the D.C. boxing community. There was a sizable turnout at his funeral.

In a February 1997 "New Faces" article in THE RING, Ballard talked about running into Mike Tyson in Las Vegas in 1986. "It was like a brush with death," Ballard said. "My life flashed before my eyes. I was mouthing off. I told him I was going to win that belt from him one day, and he said, 'Who are you?' And I said, 'Don't worry about who I am. I know who you are.'"

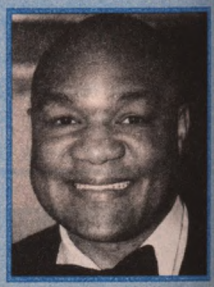
As of press time, Washington police had yet to find Ballard's killer.

—John Scheinman

OUTSIDE THE ROPES

Vargas: Charges filed

Felony assault charges were formally filed against IBF junior middleweight champion **Fernando Vargas** on August 17 following a July 25 incident in which Vargas and four friends allegedly attacked 23-year-old **Doug Rossi**, a man who had broken up a fight earlier that evening between Vargas and a female friend's ex-boyfriend. The following week, Rossi filed a civil suit against Vargas and his companions. Vargas could face up to eight years in prison, according to prosecutors ... Speaking of lawsuits, **Muhammad Ali's** lawyers filed a suit in mid-August accusing **Richard Hirschfeld**, a longtime friend and lawyer of the ex-champ's, of duping Ali into signing away the rights to his life story. Columbia Pictures is reportedly working on a movie about Ali starring **Will Smith**, but the legal action appears likely to hold up production of the film ... While new lawsuits are constantly springing up, one old one was recently brought to an end when **Johnny Tapia** settled with former manager **Paul Chavez** in late-August for $73,310. In '95, Tapia had agreed to pay Chavez a percentage of his future purses, and despite efforts to get the deal voided, the two-division former champ finally gave in the day before a trial was to begin ... A reminder of the fight game's most grim consequences came in July when the first—and hopefully last—reported ring fatality of 1999 occurred. Filipino junior flyweight **Mateo "Mighty Mite" Baring**, 31, died barely 24 hours after a seventh-round kayo loss to **Fabio Marfa** on July 24 in Cebu, Philippines. After the knockout, Baring was rushed to the hospital for emergency surgery to remove a blood clot in his brain, but he never regained consciousness. Baring was a journeyman with an 11-24-10 (6) record, including six straight defeats coming into the fight with Marfa ... While serving a scheduled eight-year stretch in prison, former German light heavyweight champion **Wieland Beust**, 30, committed suicide in August after murdering the prison boss and injuring two guards. Beust's record in his brief professional career was 7-2 (2) ... Welsh super middleweight **Joe Calzaghe** revealed in August that his father, **Enzo**, his head trainer all his life, would no longer be part of his corner. The undefeated Calzaghe, without announcing any specific reason, dispatched his father in favor of **George Francis**, veteran trainer of such notables as **Frank Bruno**, **John Mugabi**, **John Conteh**, and **Cornelius Boza-Edwards** ... Congratulations to **George Foreman** and his fourth wife, **Mary**, who welcomed the two-time heavyweight champ's 10th child (and fifth son) into the world in August. Following the established pattern, the newest Foreman is named **George VI**.



Foreman: Proud papa

THE PUNCHLINES

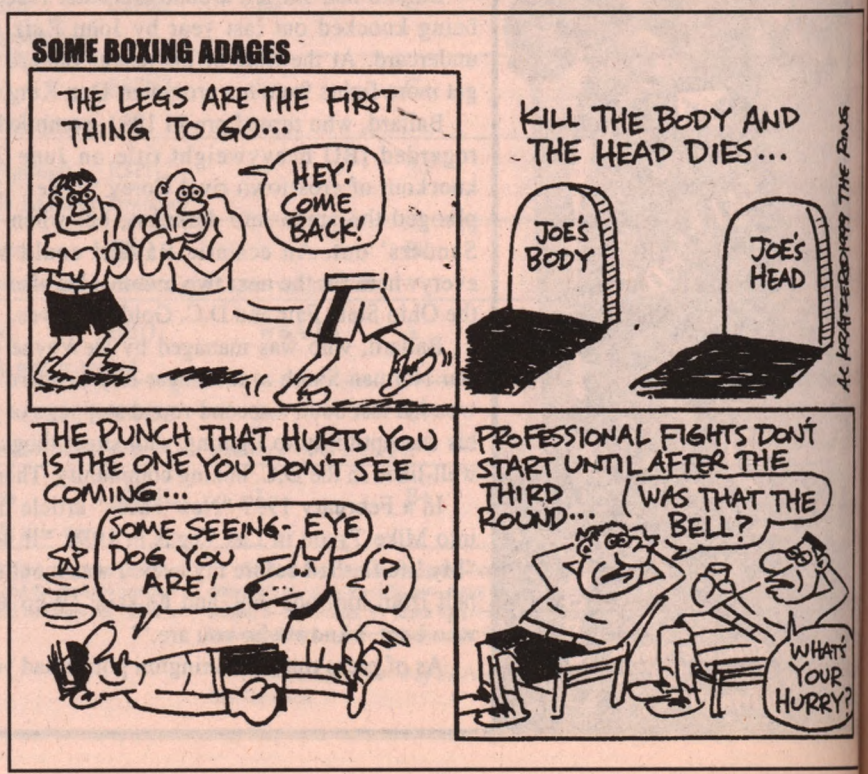
"Maybe he needs to go back down and fight some lower-caliber guys he can handle easily instead of guys who are whipping the tar out of him."

—Junior middleweight James "Cowboy" Coker on David Reid, who beat him via close decision in 1998

"Oh my God, they killed Kenny!"

—ESPN2 Friday Night Fights studio analyst Max Kellerman on regular partner Brian Kenny temporarily leaving the show

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



The RING "THE BIBLE OF BOXING"

RATINGS ANALYSIS

(For the period ended September 13, 1999)

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA** Welterweight
2. **ROY JONES** Light Heavyweight
3. **FELIX TRINIDAD** Welterweight
4. **SHANE MOSLEY** Welterweight
5. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER** Junior Lightweight
6. **MARK JOHNSON** Junior Bantamweight
7. **RICARDO LOPEZ** Strawweight
8. **ERIK MORALES** Junior Featherweight
9. **NASEEM HAMED** Featherweight
10. **BERNARD HOPKINS** Middleweight

HEAVYWEIGHTS: No changes.

CRUISERWEIGHTS: While wins by Johnny Nelson and Marcelo Dominguez were good enough for both to retain the same positions they held last issue, numbers four and five, respectively, they were not significant enough victories for them to advance.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS: Montell Griffin slips from eight to nine following his fourth-round TKO defeat at the hands of Dariusz Michalczewski, who stays put at number two. Antonio Tarver, formerly number nine, takes Griffin's old spot at eight.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS: IBF champion Sven Ottke advances from third to second on the strength of his 10th-round technical win over Thomas Tate. WBC boss Richie Woodhall, second last issue, drops to third.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Keith Mullings falls from sixth to eighth due to his unanimous decision loss to WBA king David Reid, who is still number two. Mullings' demotion causes Yory Boy Campas (seventh last issue) and Winky Wright (formerly eighth) to each jump up one spot.

WELTERWEIGHTS: Vernon Forrest's seventh-round stoppage of Santiago Samaniego was good enough to allow him to pass inactive Jose Luis Lopez and Oba Carr, who has already failed in three attempts to win a world title. That makes Forrest sixth, Lopez seventh, and Carr eighth.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS: Kostya Tszyu's one-sided TKO win over Miguel Angel Gonzalez moves the new WBC 140-pound champ from third to second, which resulted in IBF titlist Terronn Millett slipping from second to third. The badly beaten Gonzalez plunges from fourth to ninth, pushing Zab Judah, Vince Phillips, Julio Cesar Chavez, Antonio Diaz, and Randall Bailey up one spot each. Even though he's fighting at 140 pounds now, Arturo Gatti's one-round blitz of hapless Reyes Munoz was not enough to earn him a berth at junior welter.

LIGHTWEIGHTS: Paul Spadafora crashes the ratings for the first time thanks to his one-sided drubbing of Israel Cardona to take the vacant IBF crown. Spadafora enters at number three, while Cardona plummets from fourth to 10th.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: Derrick Gainer, now campaigning at 130, enters at number seven. Joel Casamayor (10th last issue) leaves to make room.

FEATHERWEIGHTS: With Gainer gone, Juan Manuel Marquez (who lost a controversial decision to second-ranked Fred Norwood), Manuel Medina, Antonio Cermeno, and Angel Vazquez all move up one place, and are now sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth, respectively. Undefeated Julio Pablo Chacon comes aboard at number 10.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS: No changes.

BANTAMWEIGHTS: Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (eighth last issue) retires following his seventh-round knockout loss to WBC champ Veerapol Sahaprom (still number four). Tatsuyoshi's departure pushes Adan Vargas and Dario Azuaga up one notch each to eighth and ninth, respectively. Danny Romero is back at number 10.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS: No changes.

FLYWEIGHTS: Sornpichai Kratchingdaeng, who stopped Leo Gamez to win the WBA title, debuts at number two. Gamez slides from second to sixth. Last issue's number 10, David Guerault, leaves to make room for Thailand's latest champion.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS: No changes.

STRAWWEIGHTS: No changes.

POUND-FOR-POUND: Floyd Mayweather, ranked sixth last issue, moves up a spot on the strength of his impressive seventh-round TKO over Carlos Gerena. "Pretty Boy" bypasses IBF 115-pound champ Mark Johnson, who looked surprisingly beatable against little-known Jorge Lacierva. ■

THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended September 13, 1999

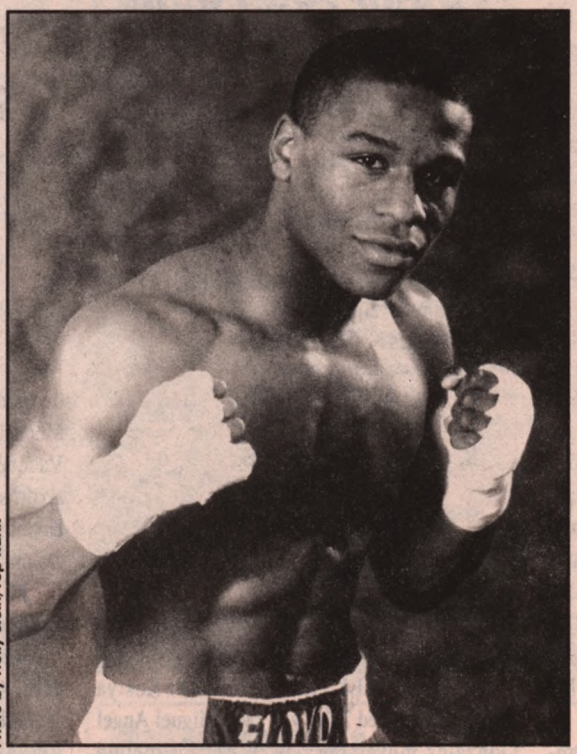


Photo by Holly Stein/Top Rank

Floyd Mayweather's latest win moved him up a notch in the pound-for-pound ratings

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **LENNOX LEWIS** England *34-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** Fairburn, GA *36-3-1 (WBA/IBF Champ)*
3. **IKE IBEABUCHI** Dallas, TX *20-0*
4. **MICHAEL GRANT** Norristown, PA *30-0*
5. **DAVID TUA** Totowa, NJ *34-1*
6. **MIKE TYSON** Catskill, NY *46-3*
7. **ANDREW GOLOTA** Chicago, IL *34-3*
8. **HASIM RAHMAN** Baltimore, MD *31-1*
9. **CHRIS BYRD** Flint, MI *28-1*
10. **KIRK JOHNSON** Canada *27-0-1*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 190 pounds

1. **JUAN CARLOS GOMEZ** Germany *28-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **FABRICE TIOZZO** France *40-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **VASSILIY JIROV** Kazakhstan *21-0 (IBF Champ)*
4. **JOHNNY NELSON** England *34-12-1*
5. **MARCELO DOMINGUEZ** Argentina *27-3-1*
6. **ARTHUR WILLIAMS** Las Vegas, NV *30-5-1*
7. **IMAMU MAYFIELD** New Brunswick, NJ *19-2*
8. **SAUL MONTANA** Mexico *33-6*
9. **KENNY KEENE** Emmett, ID *46-3*
10. **CARL THOMPSON** England *24-5*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **ROY JONES** Pensacola, FL *40-1 (WBC/WBA/IBF Champ)*
2. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** Germany *41-0*
3. **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI** Germany *40-4-1*
4. **LOU DEL VALLE** Bronx, NY *28-2*
5. **REGGIE JOHNSON** Houston, TX *39-6-1*
6. **MICHAEL NUNN** Davenport, IA *54-4*
7. **ERIC HARDING** Philadephia, PA *16-0-1*
8. **ANTONIO TARVER** Orlando, FL *13-0*
9. **MONTELL GRIFFIN** Chicago, IL *38-3*
10. **DAVID TELESCO** Port Chester, NY *22-2*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **JOE CALZAGHE** Wales *27-0*
2. **SVEN OTTKE** Germany *16-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **RICHIE WOODHALL** England *25-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **BYRON MITCHELL** Ozark, AL *20-0 (WBA Champ)*
5. **CHARLES BREWER** Philadelphia, PA *33-6*
6. **THOMAS TATE** Houston, TX *36-5*
7. **FRANKIE LILES** N. Hollywood, CA *32-3*
8. **ROBIN REID** England *26-2-1*
9. **MADS LARSEN** Denmark *29-1*
10. **VINNY PAZIENZA** Cranston, RI *46-7*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **BERNARD HOPKINS** Philadelphia, PA *35-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **WILLIAM JOPPY** Washington, D.C. *27-1-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **KEITH HOLMES** Washington, D.C. *33-2 (WBC Champ)*
4. **HASSINE CHERIFI** France *27-3-1*
5. **ANTWUN ECHOLS** Davenport, IA *22-2-1*
6. **OTIS GRANT** Canada *31-2-1*
7. **JULIO CESAR GREEN** Brooklyn, NY *25-3*
8. **ROBERT McCRACKEN** England *33-0*
9. **JASON MATTHEWS** England *21-1*
10. **DAVEY HILTON** Canada *37-1-3*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **FERNANDO VARGAS**
   Oxnard, CA *17-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **DAVID REID**
   Philadelphia, PA *14-0 (WBA Champ)*
3. **LAURENT BOUDOUANI**
   France *38-3-1*
4. **FRANCISCO CASTILLEJO**
   Spain *46-4 (WBC Champ)*
5. **HARRY SIMON**
   Namibia *18-0*
6. **YORY BOY CAMPAS**
   Mexico *73-3*
7. **WINKY WRIGHT**
   St. Petersburg, FL *39-2*
8. **KEITH MULLINGS**
   Brooklyn, NY *16-6-1*
9. **BRONCO McKART**
   Monroe, MI *38-2*
10. **TONY MARSHALL**
    Albany, NY *32-7-6*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Whittier, CA *31-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Puerto Rico *35-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **IKE QUARTEY**
   Ghana *34-1-1*
4. **JAMES PAGE**
   Pittsburg, CA *25-3 (WBA Champ)*
5. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Norfolk, VA *41-3-1*
6. **VERNON FORREST**
   Atlanta, GA *30-0*
7. **JOSE LUIS LOPEZ**
   Mexico *42-4-2*
8. **OBA CARR**
   Detroit, MI *48-3-1*
9. **SHANNAN TAYLOR**
   Australia *25-0-1*
10. **WILFREDO RIVERA**
    Puerto Rico *29-3-1*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
   Washington, D.C. *45-2 (WBA Champ)*
2. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia *23-1-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **TERRONN MILLETT**
   St. Louis, MO *22-1-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **ZAB JUDAH**
   Brooklyn, NY *21-0*
5. **VINCE PHILLIPS**
   Las Vegas, NV *39-4*
6. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
   Mexico *102-3-2*
7. **ANTONIO DIAZ**
   Coachella, CA *27-2*
8. **RANDALL BAILEY**
   Miami, FL *19-0*
9. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *43-2-1*
10. **REGGIE GREEN**
    Clinton, MD *29-3*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO *28-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **ANGEL MANFREDY**
   Gary, IN *28-4-1*
3. **PAUL SPADAFORA**
   Pittsburgh, PA *27-0 (IBF Champ)*
4. **CESAR BAZAN**
   Mexico *34-3-1*
5. **IVAN ROBINSON**
   Philadelphia, PA *28-3*
6. **STEFANO ZOFF**
   Italy *28-6-2 (WBA Champ)*
7. **JULIEN LORCY**
   France *41-1-2*
8. **COLIN DUNNE**
   England *29-1*
9. **ARTUR GRIGORIJAN**
   Uzbekistan *26-0*
10. **ISRAEL CARDONA**
    Hartford, CT *31-3*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER**
   Grand Rapids, MI *22-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **ROBERTO GARCIA**
   Oxnard, CA *32-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **LAKVA SIM**
   Mongolia *11-1-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **YONG SOO CHOI**
   South Korea *25-3-1*
5. **JESUS CHAVEZ**
   Austin, TX *28-1*
6. **ACELINO FREITAS**
   Brazil *21-0*
7. **DERRICK GAINER**
   Pensacola, FL *31-4*
8. **GOYO VARGAS**
   Mexico *39-6-1*
9. **DIEGO CORRALES**
   Sacramento, CA *28-0*
10. **JOHN BROWN**
    Atlantic City, NJ *20-6*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **NASEEM HAMED**
   England *32-0*
2. **FRED NORWOOD**
   St. Louis, MO *35-0-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **CESAR SOTO**
   Mexico *53-7-2 (WBC Champ)*
4. **VUYANI BUNGU**
   South Africa *37-2*
5. **LUISITO ESPINOSA**
   Philippines *44-8*
6. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
   Mexico *29-2*
7. **MANUEL MEDINA**
   Mexico *56-10 (IBF Champ)*
8. **ANTONIO CERMENO**
   Venezuela *33-3*
9. **ANGEL VAZQUEZ**
   Hartford, CT *17-0*
10. **JULIO PABLO CHACON**
    Argentina *33-0*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **ERIK MORALES**
   Mexico *34-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Mexico *49-2*
3. **NESTOR GARZA**
   Mexico *36-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **LEHLO LEDWABA**
   South Africa *28-1-1 (IBF Champ)*
5. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH**
   Las Vegas, NV *23-2*
6. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
   Memphis, TN *34-4-1*
7. **ENRIQUE SANCHEZ**
   Mexico *25-1-1*
8. **MBULELO BOTILE**
   South Africa *24-1*
9. **CARLOS NAVARRO**
   Los Angeles, CA *19-0*
10. **JUAN CARLOS RAMIREZ**
    Mexico *17-2*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **TIM AUSTIN**
   Cincinnati, OH *19-0-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **PAULIE AYALA**
   Ft. Worth, TX *28-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
   Albuquerque, NM *46-1-2*
4. **VEERAPOL SAHAPROM**
   Thailand *23-1 (WBC Champ)*
5. **NANA KONADU**
   Ghana *40-4-1*
6. **JORGE ELIECER JULIO**
   Colombia *42-1*
7. **JULIO GAMBOA**
   Nicaragua *24-4*
8. **ADAN VARGAS**
   Mexico *32-1-1*
9. **DARIO AZUAGA**
   Paraguay *44-0-1*
10. **DANNY ROMERO**
    Albuquerque, MN *35-3-1*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. *38-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **IN JOO CHO**
   South Korea *16-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **HIDEKI TODAKA**
   Japan *15-2-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **JESUS ROJAS**
   Venezuela *32-7-3*
5. **GERRY PENALOSA**
   Philippines *40-2-2*
6. **YOKTHAI SITHOAR**
   Thailand *18-1-1*
7. **LUIS BOLANO**
   Colombia *31-0*
8. **RATANACHAI VORAPIN**
   Thailand *35-4*
9. **JOEL LUNA-ZARATE**
   Mexico *32-3-2*
10. **ERIC MOREL**
    Madison, WI *21-0*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
   Philippines *25-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **SORNPICHAI KRATCHINGDAENG**
   Thailand *17-0 (WBA Champ)*
3. **MAURICIO PASTRANA**
   Colombia *21-0*
4. **CHATCHAI DUTCHBOY GYM**
   Thailand *34-2*
5. **IRENE PACHECO**
   Colombia *22-0 (IBF Champ)*
6. **LEO GAMEZ**
   Venezuela *32-7-1*
7. **HUGO SOTO**
   Argentina *50-6-2*
8. **JOSE BONILLA**
   Venezuela *25-5*
9. **SAEN SOR PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand *33-1*
10. **ALEJANDRO MONTIEL**
    Mexico *40-3*

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **SAMAN SORJATURONG**
   Thailand *40-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **ROSENDO ALVAREZ**
   Nicaragua *25-1-1*
3. **PICHITNOI C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand *21-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **WILL GRIGSBY**
   St. Paul, MN *14-1-1 (IBF Champ)*
5. **BABY JAKE MATLALA**
   South Africa *50-10-2*
6. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
   Mexico *56-6-4*
7. **JOMA GAMBOA**
   Philippines *25-4-1*
8. **MICHAEL CARBAJAL**
   Phoenix, AZ *49-4*
9. **JORGE ARCE**
   Mexico *20-3-1*
10. **JOSE SANJUANELO**
    Colombia *12-0*

STRAWWEIGHT
Weight Limit: 105 pounds

1. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Mexico *47-0-1 (WBC/WBA Champ)*
2. **ZOLANI PETELO**
   South Africa *14-2-2 (IBF Champ)*
3. **WANDEE CHOR CHAREON**
   Thailand *23-3*
4. **CHANA PORPAOIN**
   Thailand *39-1*
5. **SONGKRAM PORPAOIN**
   Thailand *20-2-1*
6. **ROCKY LIN**
   Philippines *26-2*
7. **JOSE AGUIRRE**
   Mexico *20-1-1*
8. **KERMIN GUARDIA**
   Columbia *31-2*
9. **ANDY TABANAS**
   Philippines *35-3-1*
10. **OSWALDO GUERRERO**
    Mexico *26-5*

RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

YOU COULDN'T PAY ME ENOUGH

Your intrepid columnist had a very moving experience a couple of months ago, and he means that literally. How did it turn out? Let's just call it the most miserable week of many in a summer that was hotter than Mia St. John in a thong bikini and steamier than the back of Frans Botha's neck after he learned that he'd only gotten a draw against Shannon Briggs.

In the aftermath of my personal dog days of August, I'm afraid that if I ever again hear the sound of masking tape unrolling, I might snap and do something really ugly. Who would have thought that moving five miles could practically move a grown man to tears? Hell, the next time I want to sweat non-stop for a week and get covered with a couple of dozen bruises, I'll work as Shane Mosley's sparring partner. Instead of getting my toes crushed by a living room set and overstuffed cardboard boxes, I'll choose to go square dancing with Butterbean.

It would be easy to continue feeling sorry for myself for a few more paragraphs, but I'm smart enough to realize that there are worse situations to find one's self in than mine. Having to unpack china and wait for the cable man—a guy with the power to link me to Max Kellerman *and* reruns of *Room 222*—is not *that* taxing when compared to some other predicaments one could find himself in. For instance, I'm awfully glad that I'm not ...

The result of Holyfield-Lewis I makes judging their rematch a nerve-racker

1) A judge for the Lennox Lewis-Evander Holyfield rematch: Here's a situation that's stickier than the floor of a cineplex that sells nachos with cheese. If you've been handed this assignment, the best thing you can do is pray for a knockout. Even a cut-causing headbutt that requires an examination of the scorecards could spell trouble.

First of all, no matter how impartial the judges may be, how can they not be influenced to some degree by the scoring controversy of Lewis-Holyfield I? If a round is close, do they lean toward Lewis in light of the widespread feeling that he was cheated the last time? Or do they automatically give the edge to Holyfield to show that they're too strong of principle to be swayed by those previous events?

Would you want to be one of the three guys with a pencil in his hand if the fight

atures numerous even exchanges at close quarters, or very little ction, in each round? If they give Holyfield the nod in a close ght or score the bout a draw, do the judges hear allegations that e "fix" was in again? And if they award Lewis the decision and e unified crown after 12 close rounds, are they accused of jury ullification, in other words, having predetermined the winner in rder to make amends for March 13?

Take that job and shove it.

2) **Jose Sulaiman or Gilberto Mendoza:** The respective but hardly respected) presidents of the WBC and WBA will ave some 'splaining to do if they strip the Lewis-Holyfield inner for failing to defend against some mandatory alphabet own within 45 minutes of the unification bout ending.

At least the IBF's number-one contender is David Tua, a orthy challenger whose power makes him an attractive pponent for either Lewis or Holyfield. If the unified titlist alks at facing Tua, the champ should be punished. But if the ew heavyweight ruler eschews John Ruiz, the WBC's top ontender, or Henry Akinwande, the WBA's mandatory hallenger, the king should be congratulated for looking out for e fans, not kicked off his throne.

3) **Roy Jones:** Sure, there are some obvious benefits to being is dude. Fame and money, not necessarily in that order, are wo that immediately come to mind. Getting to have HBO roadcast partner Jim Lampley laugh every time you say omething even remotely funny is a nice perk, too. But there's a ipside to being Mr. Jones: It has to be incredibly frustrating ying to plot a career path when you weigh 175 pounds, and all e guys landing the lucrative marquee matchups are either 147 r 225.

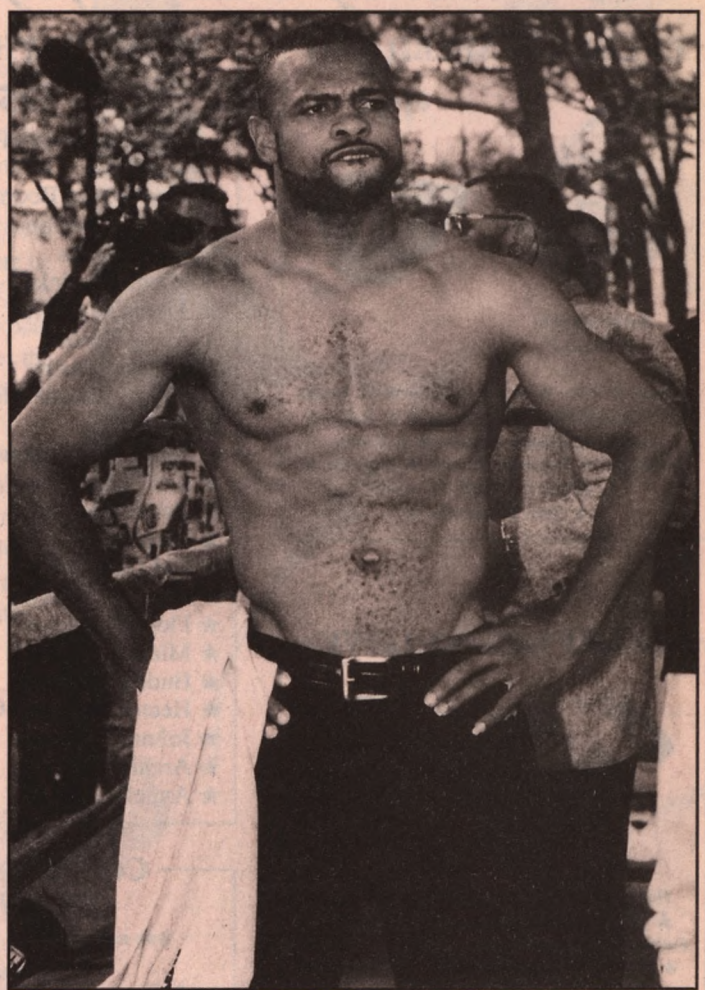
The undisputed light heavyweight champion reminds me f Thomas Crown, Pierce Brosnan's character in *The Thomas Crown Affair*. Crown steals a Monet painting valued at $100- illion, but he can't sell it or even tell anyone that he has it. ones is also in possession of something incredibly valuable: is magnificent skills. But he, too, is extremely limited in hat he can do with them.

Jones has won titles in three divisions and lost just once on a fluke in 41 outings, but he has few attractive options and ertainly no juicy rivals. He can complete his cleaning out of e 175-pound ranks by dispatching Graciano Rocchigiani nd Dariusz Michalczewski, but those fights aren't likely to e mentioned in Jones' Hall of Fame speech. He can go after a ruiserweight crown, though nobody would be pitching tents utside the box office in anticipation of tickets going on sale for hat one. Or Jones can make that ill-advised assault on the eavyweights.

But if he does that, which of the big boys does he fight? If Lewis defeats Holyfield, Jones won't be looking to challenge he Briton, who holds a huge size advantage. So that means no itle shot. And if Jones isn't going to get a chance to compete for boxing's premier prize, then why even bother with heavyweight? What does a decision over a shot Holyfield, an Axel Schulz, an Ed Mahone, or some other non-champion mean to Jones' place in history? Would a paper title, captured after it was stripped unfairly from a unified champion, have any significance?

4) **Paulie Ayala:** It must really suck that you're a world champion and a nice guy, yet aren't nearly as famous as that *other* fighting Texan named Ayala, the one who spent most of the '80s and '90s in jail.

5) **Cedric Kushner:** The South African promoter has been established as a player in the sport for years, but his stable never included a superstar who would give him the kind of clout wielded by Don King, Bob Arum, and the Duvas. Then Kushner got his hands on crunch-punching Nigerian heavyweight Ike Ibeabuchi, who



Being Roy Jones can be very frustrating

most experts agree is a future champion and who a few pundits believe may actually be the best heavyweight in the world *right now*.

We should be saying, "That lucky stiff," when we refer to Kushner, but we're instead saying, "Poor guy." That's because Ibeabuchi is giving indications that he cherishes his incredibly promising career about as much as the rest of us cherish a set of used paper plates. Ibeabuchi appears to be trying to follow in the footsteps of Mike Tyson inside and outside the ring. If recent accusations are to be believed, "The President," female companions who say "no," and Las Vegas hotel rooms are a dangerous and violent combination. And according to law enforcement officials, we're not talking about just one incident.

It may not matter how much money Kushner can make off of Ibeabuchi's career. Most of it will probably be spent on the promoter's migraine medication. ■

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EARNING RESPECT, THE HEART WAY

By Joe Santoliquito

Let's face it, Francois Botha looks like Fred Flintstone in boxing gloves. It's an image "The White Buffalo" cannot escape. He's been possibly the most maligned heavyweight champion of the 1990s, and in some circles, he's been painted as the biggest boxing caricature this side of Butterbean.

But give Botha this: He keeps coming back. Derision has always seemed to follow him like a stray dog looking for meat—and there he is scratching on boxing's backdoor panting for more. This is the year Botha seems to have finally gained the respect he's craved from both boxing fans and the boxing establishment. And he's done it under the oddest of circumstances: getting knocked silly by Mike Tyson and fighting to a bloody draw against Shannon Briggs.

Those developments are a stark contrast from Botha's past. When he won the IBF heavyweight title in '95, he was rewarded with a rain of debris, and then stripped of the title when he tested positive for steroids. The 30-year-old South African transplant, now living in Newport Beach, California, was supposed to be a sacrificial lamb against Tyson, and nothing more than a steppingstone for Briggs, when he scored—in the minds of most—an impressive moral victory, though it *was* ruled a draw.

For a boxer many thought was a joke, Botha, 39-2-1 (24), has forced some experts to re-evaluate his position in the heavyweight race. Okay, the physical similarities to Fred Flintstone are undeniable, but his jaw is made of bedrock, and his will power is unbending.

"My heart has always been my biggest asset," Botha said. "If you don't believe in yourself, you

FRANCOIS BOTHA IS NO LAUGHING MATTER ANYMORE

Photos by Tom Casino/SET

Botha pounded Shannon Briggs continuously with overhand rights throughout the fight. By the final bell, Briggs' left ear was a bloody mess. The consensus of fans watching on pay-per-view had Botha the winner, seven rounds to three.

shouldn't be in boxing. If you believe your opponent is better than you, you shouldn't get in the ring. A lot of guys are well-promoted, but in my case, early in my career, I didn't have someone to promote me. I had to fight for what I wanted. I'm very sorry I didn't get better opponents earlier in my career. But I had to start everything small. I had to learn I was the only one who was going to believe in me. I had to do it alone."

Against Briggs, Botha's grit was tested tenfold. Botha was knocked down in the eighth round and he was visibly shaken in the ninth, yet he fought back to score a 10-8 round in the 10th on all three judges' scorecards to pull out the draw.

"I was never a Francois Botha fan, but he's earned my respect in leaps and bounds," said Bobby Czyz, Showtime's color commentator for the Briggs-Botha fight at the Taj Mahal in Atlantic City on August 7. "In the Briggs fight, Botha's stock, in my opinion, doubled.

"I was so impressed by Botha in the 10th round because he let it all hang out. He just out-gutted Briggs in that last round. To Botha's credit, he told me before the Briggs fight that Briggs had more skills and more ability than him. But Botha also told me he thought he had more heart than Briggs. I have more appreciation for him, because he showed me what he was made of man-to-man. I will forever tip my hat to Botha for the way he fought against Briggs in that 10th round. He was willing to lay his ass on the line. That fight, he sold me."

Botha had many wondering who exactly he was when he arrived in Stuttgart, Germany, to fight Axel Schulz. He was a decided underdog against the hometown favorite when they met for the vacant IBF title. Botha's amateur past was questioned, as was his inflated IBF rating. So when Botha beat Schulz by a split decision, he had a reason to feel vindicated. Finally, he had proven to the world he was worthy of holding a heavyweight title—and worthy of respect.

Nonetheless, Botha and his corner were pelted with bottles and broken glass by rioting German fans, protesting the decision. One boxing publication questioned whether he was "... The Worst Heavyweight Champion Of All-Time." An American newspaper described Botha as "the most bogus heavyweight champion in

Botha felt he finally earned respect as a fighter when he defeated Axel Schulz for the vacant IBF heavyweight title in 1995, only to be stripped of the belt after testing positive for steroids.

Botha proved to be a little more elusive than Briggs had anticipated. Though he was giving away two inches in height and seven inches in reach, Botha somehow managed to stay clear of many of Briggs' blows.

oxing history." Some welcome to the top f the boxing world.

Botha quickly found being taken seriously would have to come in drips and drabs. t's a problem that's plagued Botha throughut his career. Just ask Sterling McPherson, Botha's manager the last five years..

"Botha's been an awful tough sell as a hite heavyweight," said McPherson, a ormer associate of Don King's who sevred his ties with the electric-haired proter over Botha. "It's the toughest sell in oxing. People thought this guy was a gimick. It's a shame that people are just now inding out Francois can fight. This goes all he way back to 1995 when I took him to ermany. Back then, people assumed he ouldn't fight, because he was a white eavyweight.

"When I got Botha, I started to see ome things Frans could do. I felt if we ould get him to adjust a few things, and o some things correctly, he could win. he more I started to see Francois in the ym, the more I started to see he would ecome a top-rated fighter. One thing has ever changed about Frans: He'll walk hrough a wall for you."

Botha would arrive in airports and peole would stare at him, wondering what he as, McPherson recalled. He was too short o be a basketball player, his physical build id not lend any hints he could be a football layer. The most important thing, however, was that in Botha's heart, he knew he could fight. He just grew frustrated by being ignored. That's why he gravitates toward attention today. During Botha's stay in Atlantic City for the Briggs fight, McPherson found himself constantly tugging Botha away from fans gathered around him for autographs on the boardwalk. After the postfight press conference was over and Briggs was long gone from the dais, Botha was still signing posters, fight programs, and gladhanding anyone within reach.

"He loved it," said McPherson of all the attention Botha is suddenly enjoying, "but I was the one that had to get him from place to place."

But what exactly was it so many failed to see in Botha at first? And what is it about him we now find so enticing? He does the same thing over and over again inside the ring. He's never shown the stamina to endure a fast pace throughout a hard fight. He's not blessed with incredible hand speed or hulking size. His defense sometimes consists of standing there and getting hit. He's far from pretty. In fact, Botha jokingly told Czyz before the Briggs fight that he's lost some baby fat, and Czyz responded by reminding Botha that old buffaloes are skin and bones—not pudgy.

One major change Botha admits is that he's finally doing what he should have done a long time ago: staying in shape all year round. To help him with this, he hired a nutritionist after the Tyson fight.

"You can say I liked junk food, especially pasta. I ate so much, I felt like I was almost Italian," said Botha, laughing.

Today, he's in the best shape of his life, though his body looks pretty much the same as ever. Still, Botha's newfound endurance has enabled him to engage his opponents longer, and create good, high-impact fights.

"Botha is a capable, not great, fighter with an inordinately large heart and an ability to take punishment," said Ferdie Pacheco,

(Continued on page 73)

Botha, pictured with his daughter Cecilia, said he is in the best shape of his life and feels blessed. His last two performances, against Mike Tyson and Briggs, have made him a hot property in the heavyweight division.

Photo by Jay Lash

Will ANDREW GOLOTA DRIVE MICHAEL GRANT NUTS?

We Can Only Hope!

By Nigel Collins

Wouldn't it be great if Andrew Golota charged out of his corner on the evening of November 20 and drilled Michael Grant square in the groin with one of his cup-denting specials? Nothing against Grant, mind you, or Golota for that matter. It's just that you get the sinking feeling that if the Foul Pole's home run swings stay in fair territory all night, we might not get to see much of a fight.

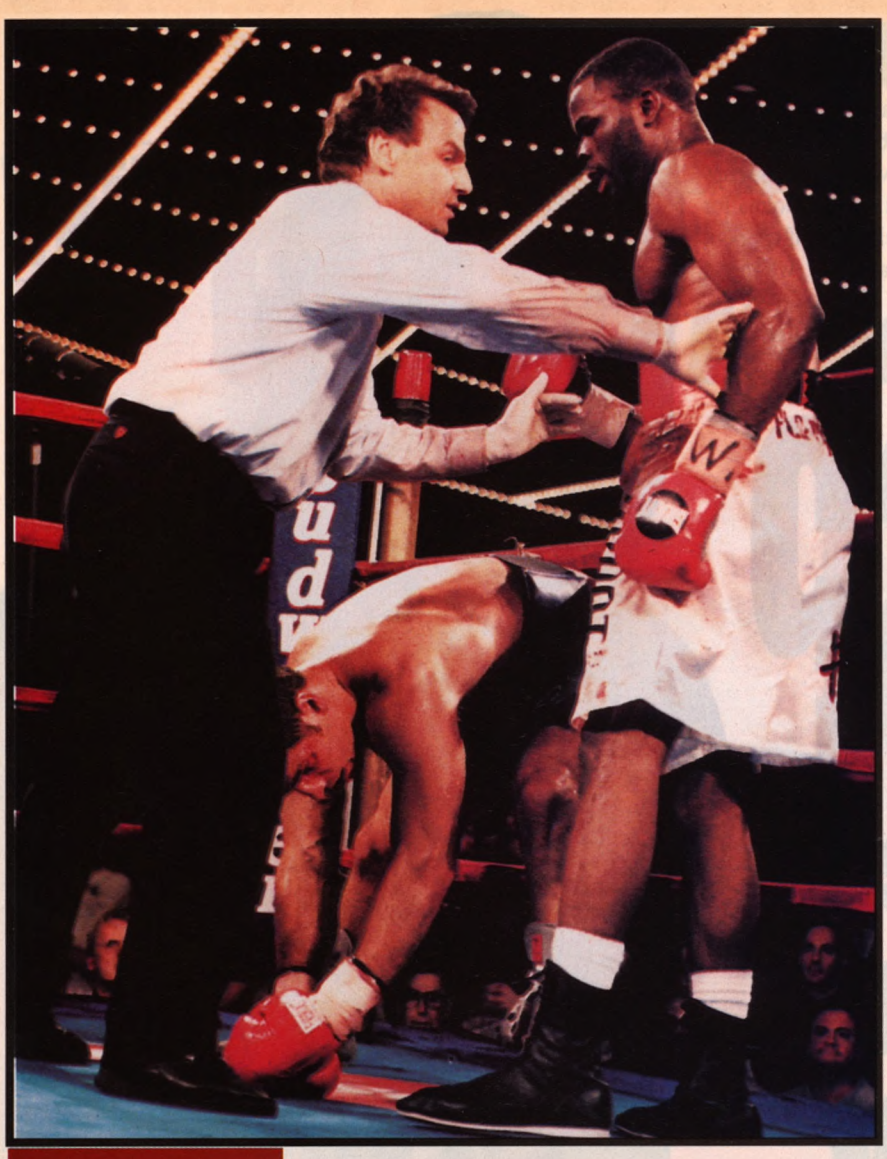
Grant is rapidly becoming boxing's Mr. Mellow, the compassionate nice guy who doesn't mind allowing his opponents to stick around for the entire fight, providing, of course, they don't get too frisky. Golota, who rose to fame on the strength of his two foul-infested brawls with Riddick Bowe, now acts like Miss Manners is mapping out his fight plan for him. It's enough to make you wonder whatever happened to shoving the other guy's nose bone into his brain.

Regardless of the outcome of Lennox Lewis-Evander Holyfield II, which is scheduled to take place the weekend before Golota-Grant, a lot of folks are pinning their hope on Grant being the next great heavyweight. To a large degree, Lewis and Holyfield are yesterday's news, and in boxing, people are always eager to embrace the future—or at least what they perceive to be the future.

We already know Golota's limitations, but expectations for

Photo by Chris Cassidy

Photo by Frank Vitucci



Although he scored two knockdowns in the final round, Grant allowed ordinary Lou Savarese to last the distance in a disappointing performance. If he's going to be the next dominant heavyweight, Grant will have to step up the intensity level.

Golota has also been somewhat lackluster in recent bouts, including his 10-round decision over aging journeyman Jesse Ferguson. Formerly an aggressive banger, the Pole now seems to favor jabbing his way to victory from a safe distance.

Grant are still high. He certainly looks the part. But if a magnificent physique were all it took to be a great heavyweight, Mike Weaver would be in the Hall of Fame, and Rocky Marciano would never have made it out of the preliminary ranks. It's what goes on between the ears and inside the heart that makes great fighters, and so far, neither Grant nor Golota has shown the right stuff.

Grant's problem is that he doesn't really have a fighter's mentality, which isn't too surprising considering that boxing was the farthest thing from his mind during his formative years. He was going to be a football player, a baseball player, a basketball player—anything but a boxer. But when he flunked out of college, those options disappeared, and boxing suddenly became a viable alternative. And Grant must be commended for the giant strides he's made in a sport that he didn't take up until he was 20 years old. True, years of playing other sports have honed his competitive edge, but he lacks the killer instinct, especially when his opponent poses little or no threat.

Golota, of course, comes into the Grant fight after having his psyche turned inside out. Originally, fans loved him because he was a rampaging madman, biting necks, butting heads, and hammering home low blows with wild abandon. When he fouled out against Bowe the first time, it caused a riot at Madison Square Garden, and when he did it again, he became a cult hero. But

Once uncomfortable in the media spotlight, Golota has loosened up considerably. Prior to his disastrous first-round kayo loss to Lennox Lewis in 1997, he jokingly tested a protective cup at a prefight press conference.

Although best known for fouling out in his two brawls with Riddick Bowe, Golota also landed a lot of outstanding legal punches against "Big Daddy." Had he been able to control himself, Golota would most likely have two more wins on his record.

his handlers, various commission types, and a pack of sanctimonious media members weren't satisfied with Golota the way he was. He'd have to straighten up and fight fair, or risk seeing his career as a high-priced TV fighter—a career, mind you, that was founded on two DQ defeats—go into the spit bucket.

Attempts to rein in Golota were wildly successful, and the next thing you know, he was politely crumbling at Lewis' feet, the victim of a first-round knockout. Since then, he has undergone still another transformation, emerging as a jab-and-move stylist who prefers tip-toeing around geriatric opponents like Tim Witherspoon and Jesse Ferguson to mixing it up in the trenches with studs like Bowe and Samson Po'uha, the unfortunate fellow who was doing rather well for himself until Golota sank his fangs into his flesh. Golota the goon was unpredictable, exciting, and fun to watch; Golota the gentlemanly boxer is predictable, dull, and about as entertaining as watching Lou Duva take a nap.

So what we have here is a high-priced heavyweight fight between a couple of guys whose mental outlooks don't come close to matching their imposing physical attributes and glossy ring records. Therefore, we have to hope that at least one, but preferably both, of the combatants breaks out of their current mindset and goes for the gusto. And perhaps the surest way to precipitate such an explosion would be for Golota to go for the gonads. Even Grant's manager, Craig Hamilton, is curious to see what would happen if Golota got down and dirty.

"I don't think Michael would let a couple of low blows bother him," said Hamilton. "But if Golota was way behind and butted him on purpose or something like that, we might see Michael go nuts."

To date, we've only seen flashes of what Grant is capable of when his inner-fires are stoked. Most of his opponents are too worried about protecting themselves from the towering giant bearing down on them to launch a determined offense. But David Izon (KO 5) and Obed Sullivan (KO 9) came to win and fought aggressively, prompting Grant to lash back with a series of devastating blows that resulted in the two most impressive performances of his career. Conversely, with Lou Savarese ineffectively pawing at him, Grant was content to coast to a wide points win.

"That was me that fight," said the laid-back Grant of his dreary showing against Savarese. "I fought that fight with Lou comfortably, and won comfortably. It was a good fight to have under my belt. People always want you to perform a little better, they say, 'Why didn't you take him out? If you gonna be the champ, you should have took him out early.' But people have to understand that I'm not a brawler. If I was just a puncher, I'd be like Mike Tyson and go in there and start punching right away. But my whole thing is technique."

(Continued on page 73)

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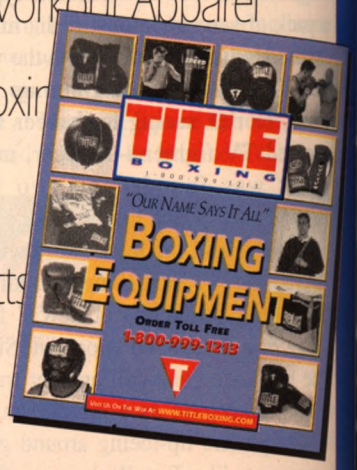

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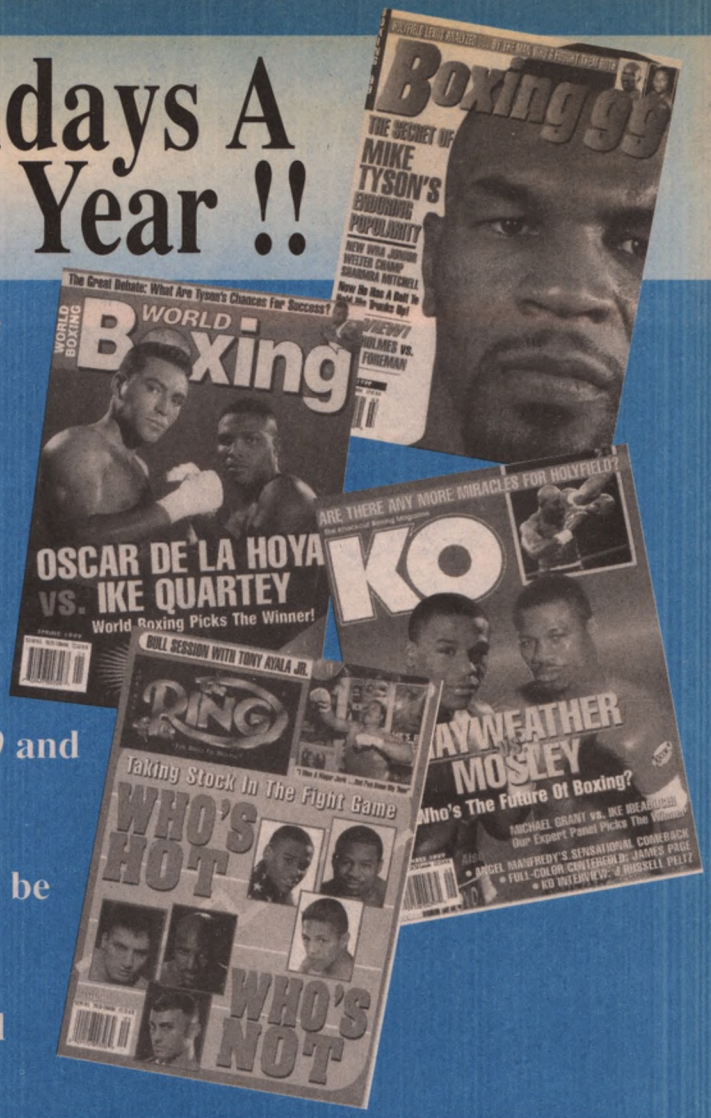

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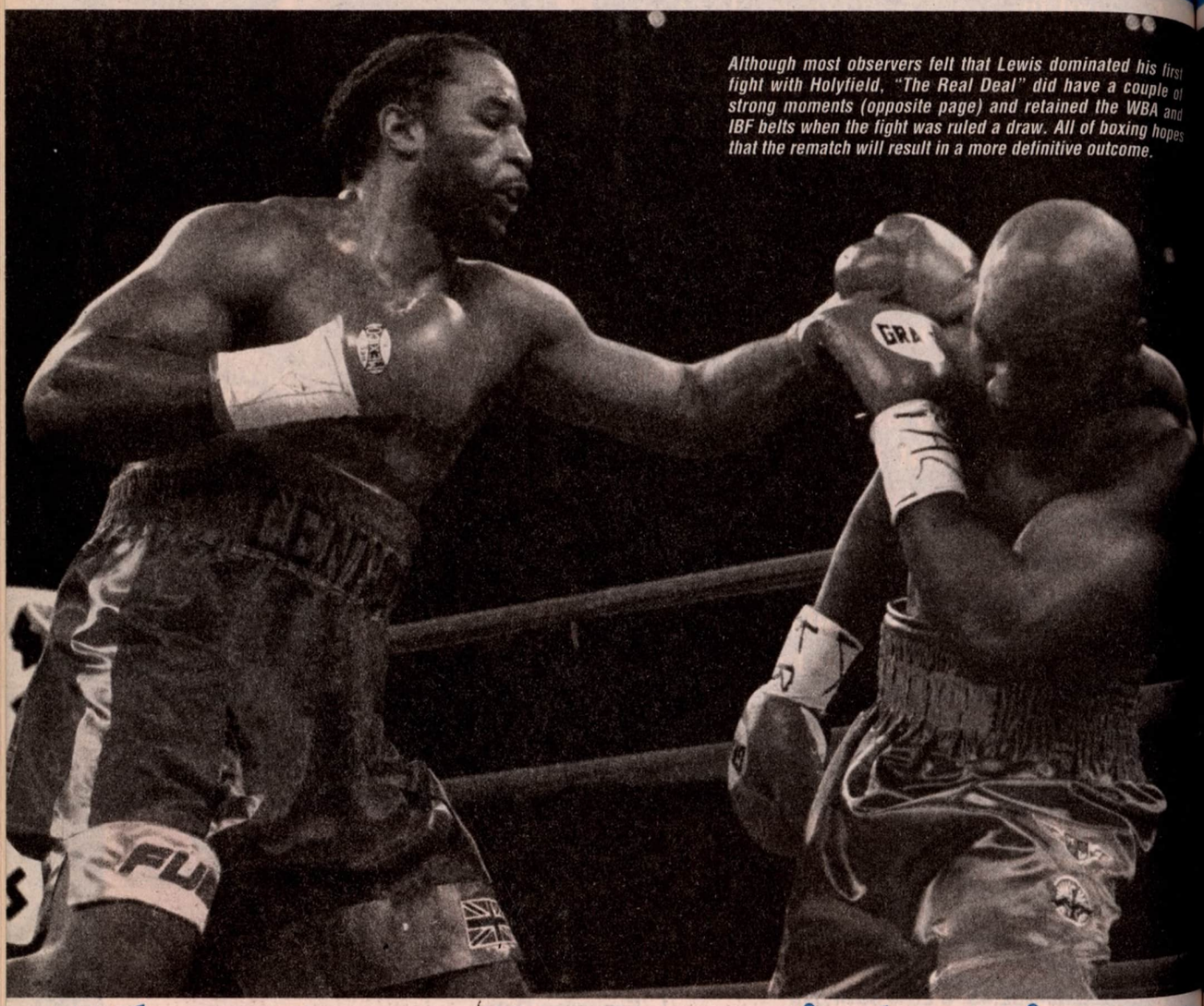


Although most observers felt that Lewis dominated his first fight with Holyfield, "The Real Deal" did have a couple of strong moments (opposite page) and retained the WBA and IBF belts when the fight was ruled a draw. All of boxing hopes that the rematch will result in a more definitive outcome.

What Does Heavyweight History Reveal About The Rematch?

By Robert Cassidy

The rematch. Those two simple words have inspired a century of excitement in the sport of boxing. For the fan, it is the promise of a great fight continued, a compelling drama extended another act. For the fighters, it offers either the chance for redemption or the opportunity to demonstrate luck had nothing to do with the first one.

Heavyweight title fight rematches have left an indelible mark on the history of the game's dominant division. Dempsey-Tunney II ... Louis-Conn II ... Patterson-Johansson II ... Ali-Liston II ... Holyfield-Tyson II. Each of those rematches and others have intrigued the public. The first fights were so captivating—or unbelievable, as in the cases of Ali-Liston and Holyfield-Tyson—that the world just had to see them again.

The rematch between Evander Holyfield and Lennox Lewis is not intriguing as much as it is unfinished business. The controversial draw in their first contest, not clamoring boxing fans, has mandated this rematch. But despite the fact that the first encounter fell considerably short of expectations, the sport needs a winner and the heavyweight division needs a unified champion.

Will history repeat itself when these champions meet again? A look at Holyfield's performance in the first fight offers little hope for a victory the second time

around. But then again, Holyfield seems to have an innate ability to reinvent himself for rematches. And if the first Holyfield-Lewis fight offers too few clues about the rematch, then perhaps something can be learned by studying the long, and sometimes glorious, history of heavyweight championship rematches.

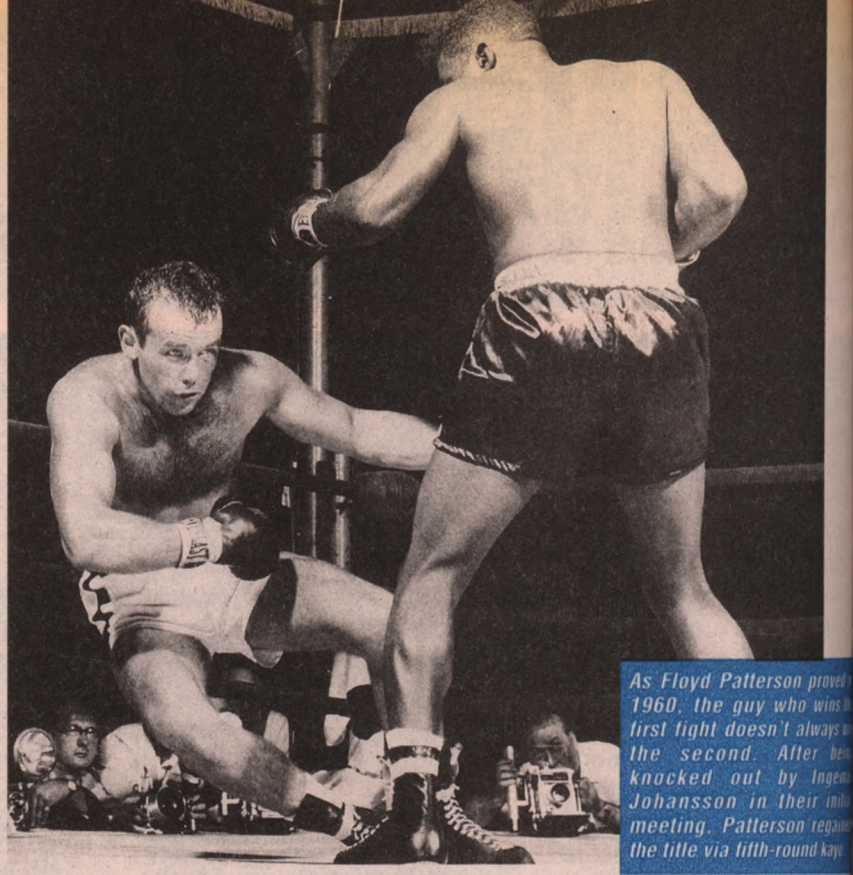
Lewis-Holyfield II will be the 31st time that the same heavyweights have met in a rematch with the title on the line. That number includes series that went beyond two fights, such as Jersey Joe Walcott and Ezzard Charles, who met four times with the title on the line. Joe Louis emerged victorious in a record five heavyweight title fight rematches, and thus far Holyfield has won three.

Of the three previous heavyweight title fights that have ended in a draw, only one other resulted in an immediate rematch. When Tommy Burns and challenger Philadelphia Jack O'Brien battled to a 20-round draw in 1906, the pair met again six months later. There was an unusual stipulation written into the prefight agreement: If the rematch ended in a draw, the referee could extend the bout for as long as it took to reach a decisive winner. The clause proved to be unnecessary because Burns won 19 of the 20 rounds to retain the title.

The addition of such a provision would be a welcome part of the Holyfield-Lewis rematch, but it's not going to happen in this era, when every last detail of a bout, down to the manufacturer of the gloves, is ironed out prior to the opening bell. There are several scenarios, however, that have played themselves out over the history of the heavyweight division that could apply to the Lewis-Holyfield rematch.

Given the controversial outcome of the first fight, both Lewis and Holyfield should be motivated to erase the first verdict. For Lewis, 34-1-1 (27), it is an opportunity to achieve a decisive and official victory and gain the universal respect that has eluded him throughout his career. For Holyfield, 36-3-1 (25), it is an opportunity to erase the only hint of controversy that blemishes an otherwise stellar career.

No other heavyweight champion was better at clearing up a controversial decision than Louis. Including non-title fights, he had a 10-0 career record in rematches. While there were very few tainted victories during Louis' career, he faced even



As Floyd Patterson proved in 1960, the guy who wins the first fight doesn't always win the second. After being knocked out by Ingemar Johansson in their initial meeting, Patterson regained the title via fifth-round knockout.

THE HISTORY OF HEAVYWEIGHT

6/9/1899	James J. Jeffries KO 11 Bob Fitzsimmons
7/25/02	Jeffries KO 8 Fitzsimmons
5/11/00	James J. Jeffries KO 23 James J. Corbett
8/14/03	Jeffries KO 10 Corbett
11/28/06	Tommy Burns D 20 Philadelphia Jack O'Brien
5/8/07	Burns W 20 O'Brien
7/4/07	Tommy Burns KO 1 Billy Squires
6/13/08	Burns KO 8 Squires
8/24/08	Burns KO 13 Squires
9/23/26	Gene Tunney W 10 Jack Dempsey
9/22/27	Tunney W 10 Dempsey
6/12/30	Max Schmeling W Disq. 4 Jack Sharkey
6/21/32	Sharkey W 15 Schmeling
2/9/40	Joe Louis W 15 Arturo Godoy
6/20/40	Louis KO 8 Godoy
3/21/41	Joe Louis KO 13 Abe Simon
3/27/42	Louis KO 6 Simon
5/23/41	Joe Louis W Disq. 7 Buddy Baer
1/9/42	Louis KO 1 Baer
6/18/41	Joe Louis KO 13 Billy Conn
6/9/46	Louis KO 8 Conn
12/5/47	Joe Louis W 15 Jersey Joe Walcott
6/25/48	Louis KO 11 Walcott
6/22/49	Ezzard Charles W 15 Jersey Joe Walcott
3/7/51	Charles W 15 Walcott
7/18/51	Walcott KO 7 Charles
6/5/52	Walcott W 15 Charles
9/23/52	Rocky Marciano KO 13 Jersey Joe Walcott
5/15/53	Marciano KO 1 Walcott
6/17/54	Rocky Marciano W 15 Ezzard Charles
9/17/54	Marciano KO 8 Charles

wer problems when meeting an opponent e second time. In February of 1940, uis retained the title for the 10th time th a split decision over awkward chal-ger Arturo Godoy. They met again four nths later, and that time Louis left no ubt, stopping Godoy in eight rounds at nkee Stadium.

Then, at the twilight of his title reign, uis was awarded a split decision over lcott at Madison Square Garden. Louis s so sure that he'd been defeated, "The own Bomber" tried to exit the ring mediately following the final bell before e decision was announced. In the match, Walcott held a slight points lead er 10 rounds of what was an excruciat-g dull fight. But then Louis struck in nd 11, flattening Walcott for a 10-count th his famed right cross. Nothing contro-rsial about that outcome.

While Holyfield has never conceded ctory to Lewis, he certainly appeared to e the beaten man after the first fight. ke Louis at the conclusion of the st Walcott bout, Holyfield resembled a man resigned to defeat moments before the draw was announced. Even so, the fading Louis was able to summon enough power to beat Walcott in their rematch. But can Holyfield, also in the waning stages of a great career, do the same against Lewis? Although the parallels are quite similar, such a scenario is unlikely for the simple reason that Holyfield has never possessed the punching power of Louis. If Holyfield again finds himself trailing Lewis, as Louis did in the Walcott rematch, it's doubtful that he will be able to generate the power for a fight-saving knockout.

But Holyfield does possess a quality all great champions share—unremitting desire. He has already demonstrated a Louis-like flair for winning rematches (5-1 in his career) and much of that success can be attributed to his determination. In November '92, Holyfield was beaten for the first time as a pro when Riddick Bowe wrested the undisputed heavyweight title away from him with a unanimous decision. A year later, "The Real Deal" regained the title with a majority decision over Bowe. Then, in '94, Holyfield lost the crown for the second time when he was outpointed by Michael Moorer. That defeat was avenged three years later when Holyfield knocked Moorer out in eight rounds. Holyfield became only the second man to win the heavyweight title three times with an upset 11th-round TKO of Mike Tyson in '96. The rematch took place six months later, and it appeared Holyfield was en route to another win when Tyson was disqualified for biting Holyfield's ears.

Lewis has participated in one previous title-fight rematch, avenging his '94 loss against Oliver McCall with a fifth-round TKO in '97. It is difficult, however, to determine a pattern in those fights. Some observers still feel McCall's victory was a fluke, and the rematch, which ended with McCall in tears, refusing to fight, lent no insight as to how Lewis prepared for the fight.

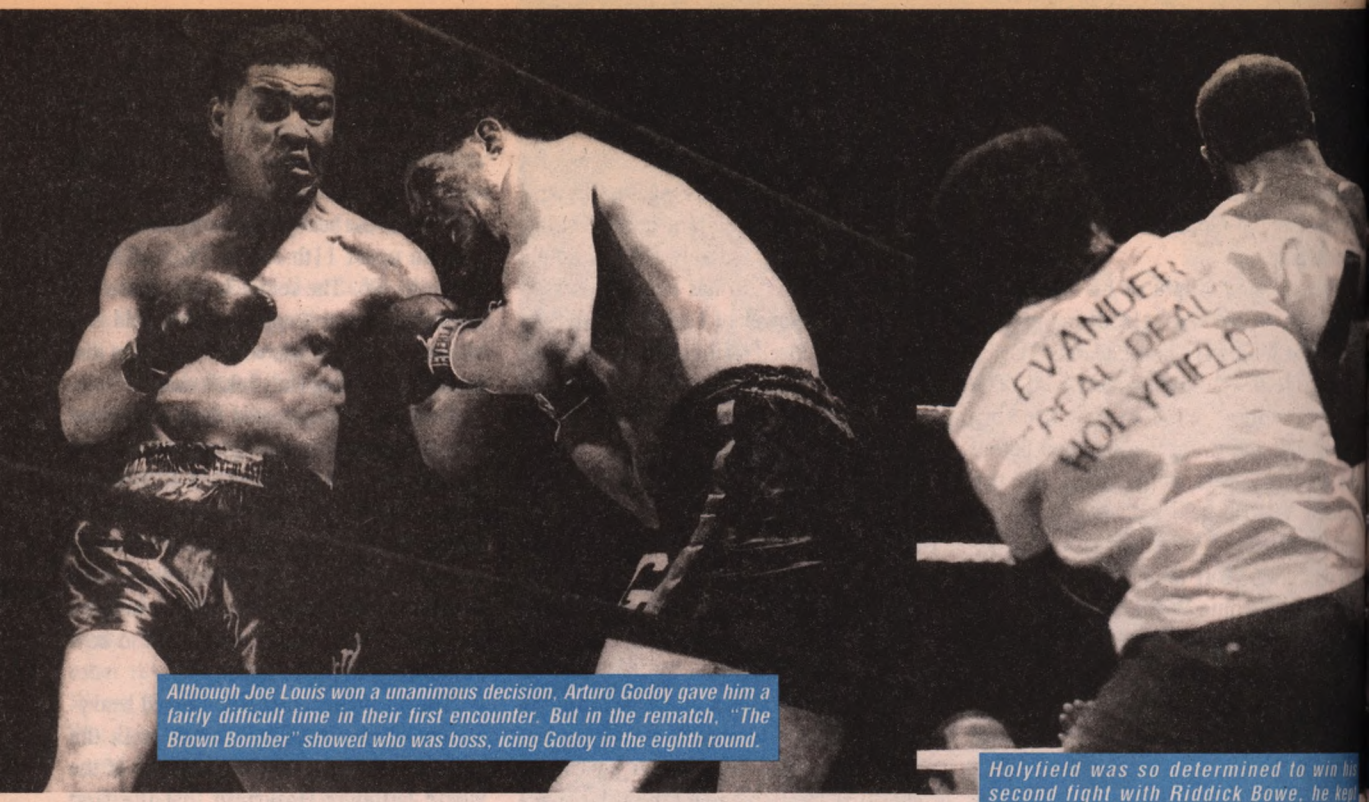
The phenomenon of a dethroned heavyweight champ turning the tables in the rematch—let's face it, the majority of the world believes Holyfield lost the first

AMPIONSHIP REMATCHES

59	Ingemar Johansson KO 3 Floyd Patterson
60	Patterson KO 5 Johansson
61	Patterson KO 6 Johansson
62	Sonny Liston KO 1 Floyd Patterson
63	Liston KO 1 Patterson
64	Muhammad Ali KO 7 Sonny Liston
65	Ali KO 1 Liston
71	Joe Frazier W 15 Muhammad Ali
75	Ali KO 14 Frazier
78	Leon Spinks W 15 Muhammad Ali
79	Ali W 15 Spinks
10/82	Michael Dokes KO 1 Mike Weaver
83	Dokes D 15 Weaver
85	Michael Spinks W 15 Larry Holmes
86	Spinks W 15 Holmes

Ali gets the better of Spinks the second time around

2/25/89	Mike Tyson KO 5 Frank Bruno
3/16/96	Tyson KO 3 Bruno
11/13/92	Riddick Bowe W 12 Evander Holyfield
11/6/93	Holyfield W 12 Bowe
4/22/94	Michael Moorer W 12 Evander Holyfield
11/8/97	Holyfield KO 8 Moorer
9/24/94	Oliver McCall KO 2 Lennox Lewis
2/7/97	Lewis KO 5 McCall
11/9/96	Evander Holyfield KO 11 Mike Tyson
6/28/97	Holyfield W Disq. 3 Tyson



Although Joe Louis won a unanimous decision, Arturo Godoy gave him a fairly difficult time in their first encounter. But in the rematch, "The Brown Bomber" showed who was boss, icing Godoy in the eighth round.

Holyfield was so determined to win his second fight with Riddick Bowe, he kept punching after the bell on several occasions. At one point, trainer Emanuel Steward had to jump in the ring and pull The Real Deal away from "Big Daddy." Critics wonder if Holyfield can still muster that much intensity.

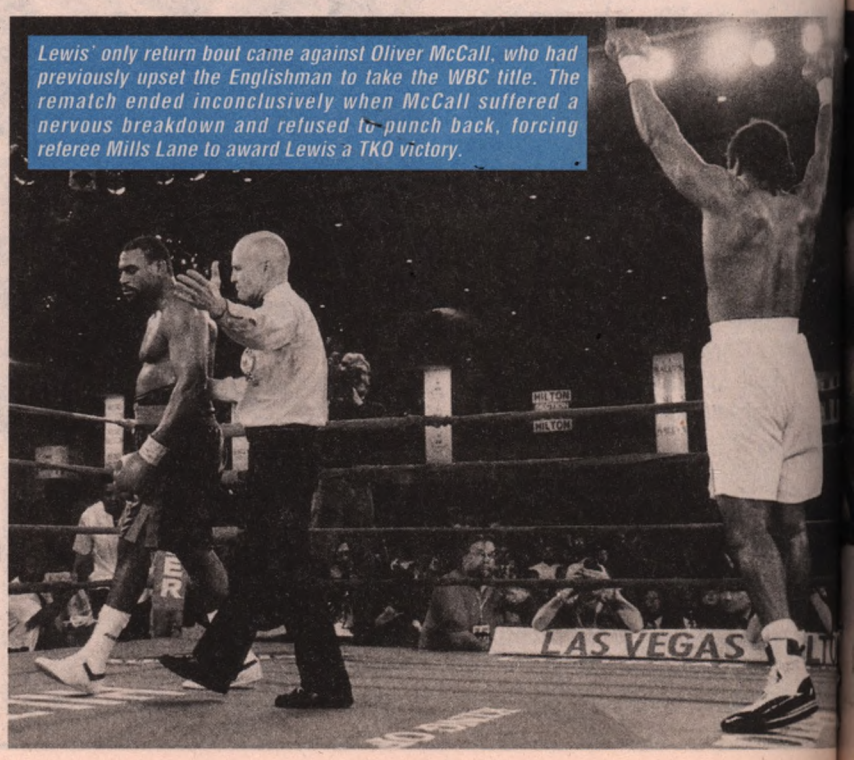
fight—is uncommon, but not unprecedented. Walcott twice defeated Charles after two losses. Floyd Patterson twice knocked out Ingemar Johansson after the Swede dethroned him via knockout in '59. And Ali defeated Leon Spinks seven months after the Olympic hero upset Ali.

If anyone is a likely candidate for such a reversal, it would be Holyfield. His personal history suggests he is a far better fighter the second time around. Whether or not, at this stage of his career, he is able to put forth such a mighty effort, which is what it will take to beat Lewis, remains to be seen. It could be said that Ali pulled off a similar feat at a similar stage of his career when he regained the title by beating Spinks. But, unfortunately for Holyfield, Lewis is far more formidable than "Neon Leon."

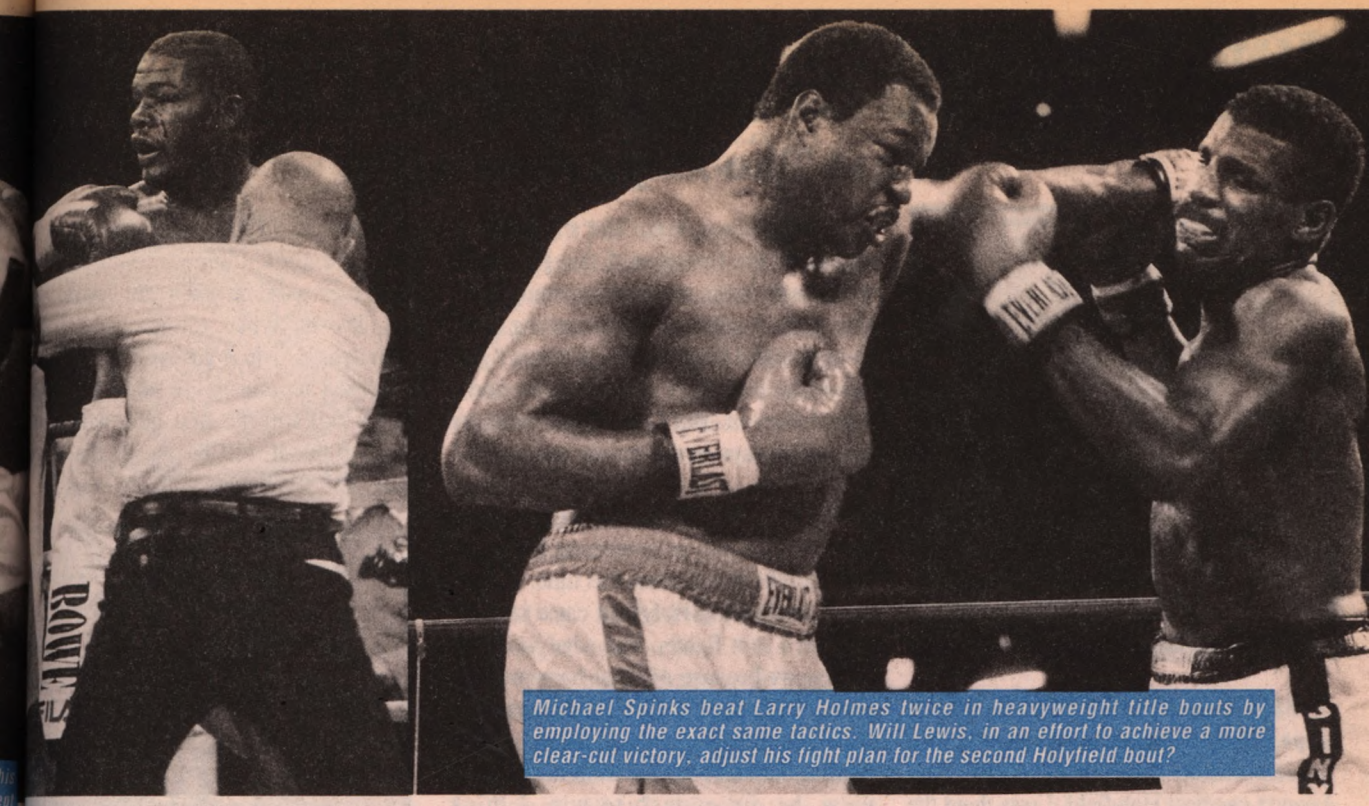
It would appear that Lewis already has the formula to defeat Holyfield. His left jab and lead rights dominated the first fight, and his tremendous size advantage made it difficult for Holyfield to find his punching range. Lewis remained composed, even when Holyfield pressed to fulfill his prophecy of a third-round knockout, and did not get lured into the kind of slugfest that Holyfield savors. Lewis, even though he is the bigger puncher, should avoid seeking the knockout in the rematch. He has the ability and size to outpoint Holyfield, and deviating from that could jeopardize his chance for victory.

Gene Tunney and Michael Spinks are the historical examples that Lewis should follow. Tunney and Spinks, a pair of underdogs who captured the heavyweight crown, were able to keep their titles because they were disciplined.

The stylish Tunney outskilled the bullish Jack Dempsey, and captured the heavyweight title with a unanimous 10-round decision in September 1926. They met



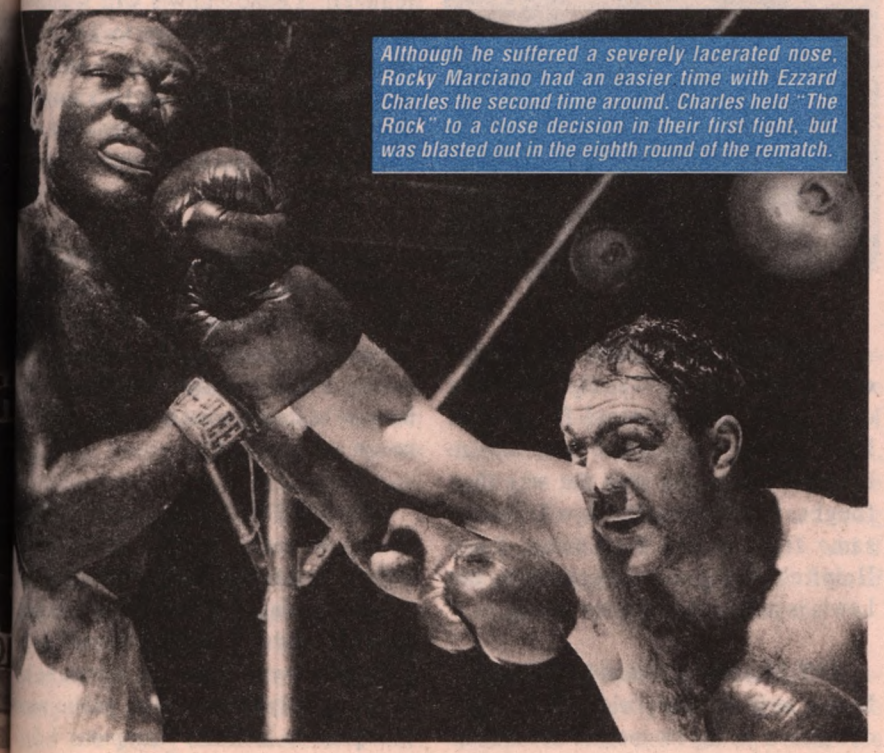
Lewis' only return bout came against Oliver McCall, who had previously upset the Englishman to take the WBC title. The rematch ended inconclusively when McCall suffered a nervous breakdown and refused to punch back, forcing referee Mills Lane to award Lewis a TKO victory.



Michael Spinks beat Larry Holmes twice in heavyweight title bouts by employing the exact same tactics. Will Lewis, in an effort to achieve a more clear-cut victory, adjust his fight plan for the second Holyfield bout?

gain the following September in what at e time was the most anticipated rematch n boxing history, drawing 104,493 fans to Chicago's Soldier Field and generating the irst $2-million gate. Once again, Tunney ontrolled the action with a sharp left jab ntil Dempsey scored a knockdown in ound seven. The famous "long count" controversy ensued—the referee did not start counting until Dempsey retreated to a neutral corner—and Tunney survived the round. Using his agility and left jab, Tunney remained out of danger for the final three rounds and retained the title with another unanimous 10-round decision.

Spinks became the first light heavyweight champion to capture the heavyweight title when he upset Larry Holmes in September '85. The awkward Spinks employed movement and angles, retreating and then attacking, and proved to be too difficult a puzzle for the aging Holmes to solve. Spinks captured the crown with a close 145-142, 143-142 (twice) unanimous decision.



Although he suffered a severely lacerated nose, Rocky Marciano had an easier time with Ezzard Charles the second time around. Charles held "The Rock" to a close decision in their first fight, but was blasted out in the eighth round of the rematch.

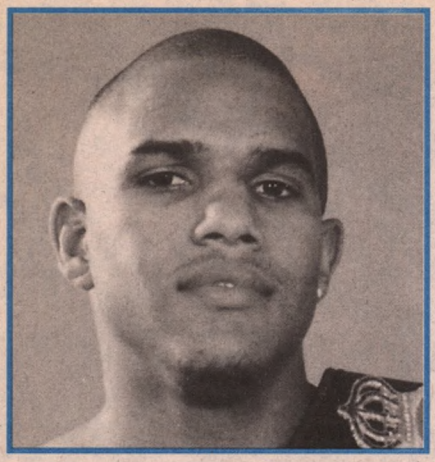
The rematch occurred seven months later, and Spinks retained the title with a split decision (144-141, 144-142, and 141-144). Although that verdict has been debated, there is no arguing that Spinks' calculating style kept the fight close. The lesson to be learned by Lewis is that even after Holmes threw Spinks to the canvas in the first round of the rematch, Spinks remained composed and stuck to his fight plan.

That the Holyfield-Lewis rematch is taking place within the same 12-month period of the first fight favors Holyfield. Of the 30 rematches in heavyweight title fight history, 16 took place in each contestant's very next fight. In other cases, the champion defended against other contenders before the rematch. The longest time elapsed between rematches is the second Mike Tyson-Frank Bruno match, which was possible because today's multi-sanctioning bodies allowed each fighter to re-emerge as champions later in

(Continued on page 76)

WHO WILL WIN LEWIS-HOLYFIELD II?

What The Experts Think



SHARMBA MITCHELL (WBA super lightweight champion): "It's a great matchup again, but I don't think Lennox can beat Holyfield. I was there the first time, and I thought the fight was a draw. I don't think Evander had a set game plan the first time. I think he learned that Lennox has long arms and can box some, so if I were Evander, I'd try to smother Lewis more. If he goes in and sticks to a game plan, I think Evander will win."

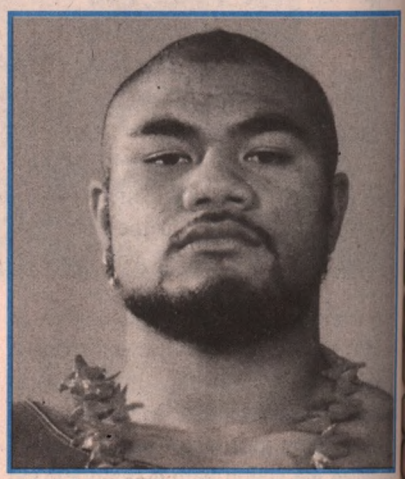
JOE GOOSSEN (veteran trainer): "I hope it's not as boring as the first fight. The only one willing to fight was Holyfield, and Lewis fought for survival. Lennox Lewis held all night long, and the referee never broke it up. The inside work by Holyfield was never allowed to get on track. I would have been all over the ref in that fight if I was in Holyfield's corner. Lewis showed too much of a safety-first fight. In this fight, I think we're going to see a more reserved Holyfield. He won't be as verbose this time around. You'll see a better tactical fight this time. Emanuel Steward will insist that Lewis knock Holyfield out. Holyfield will have to be a lot more tenacious, and in a lot better shape. Still, Lewis will probably box his way to a 12-round victory."

FLOYD MAYWEATHER (WBC super featherweight champion): "If Holyfield doesn't press the fight, Lennox Lewis is going to do what he did the first time and outbox him. The scoring was ridiculous the first time. I thought Lewis won hands down, but he was getting tired. This time, it will be a more exciting fight. Even though I think Holyfield's best fights are in the past, he's still a warrior and a true champion. But I see Lewis winning easy, if he stays on the outside and boxes."

CHRIS BYRD (heavyweight contender): "It's still an interesting fight as to how Holyfield will come this time. Lennox could be thinking Holyfield came in looking like a shot fighter. The edge has to go to Lennox because of what happened the first time. Lennox wasn't a big chump like Evander thought he was. Lennox was fighting for survival, but from my point of view, he did enough to win. I think Holyfield will be more aggressive, because he feels he has to prove the world wrong."

BILL CAYTON (former co-manager of Mike Tyson): "The fight will be a duplicate of the original fight, with Lewis getting a decision. I think they're both better fighters than the way they fought, but essentially it will be the same fight as the first time. I see Holyfield being more aggressive, but Lewis is just too big and too strong."

JAY SEARCY (*Philadelphia Inquirer* boxing writer): "Holyfield is an example of a person getting the most of all his skills and talent, and I think he's done that all his life. I've always admired Holyfield, but there comes a time when you have to think it's all over. When you get to be his age, your legs can just go overnight and you can lose your punch. We saw some erosion of his skills in the first bout with Lewis, and I think it will be worse the second time. This time, there will be a stoppage."

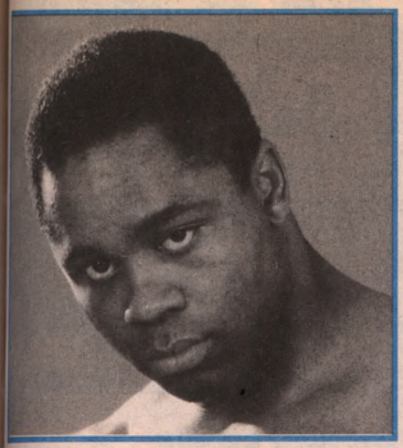


DAVID TUA (heavyweight contender): "Lennox Lewis will win. He's going to go out and try to knock out Holyfield this time. Holyfield is Holyfield, no one knows what he'll do. He's a warrior, there's no doubt about that. But I just think Lewis is going to get the job done this time."

TERRONN MILLETT (IBF junior welterweight champion): "I'm more of a Holyfield fan, because I think he can box and punch. I believe anything is possible in boxing. I think Holyfield can win this time because he knows what he's up against and he can prepare for it."

ED SCHUYLER (Associated Press boxing writer): "Lewis will knock him out, that's if he's willing to take a risk or two after seeing Holyfield in the first fight. If Lewis wants to establish himself as the premier heavyweight in the world, he has to knock Holyfield out. The public wants champions to look like champions. I don't

think Holyfield can beat a man as big as Lewis. He's forced to lunge, and that's not a good thing."



KIRK JOHNSON (heavyweight contender): "I'll stick with Lewis winning by a decision, but I think it's going to be a harder fight. It's going to be the fight everyone expected the first time. Holyfield will come back with more on the table, and Lewis will rise to the occasion, too. Lewis will get the decision, but not as lopsided in the minds of the public as last time."

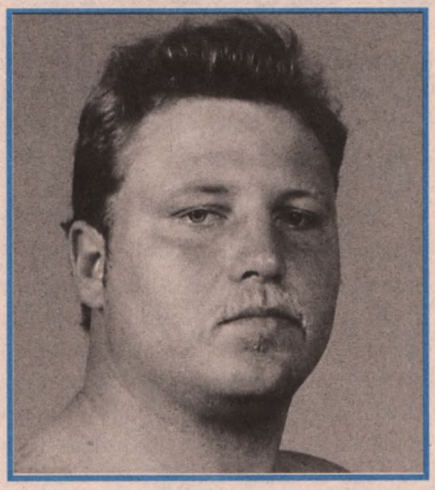
JACK OBERMAYER (veteran freelance journalist): "One more dubious verdict like in March, and you might as well kiss what's left of the sport goodbye. The feeling here, however, is that Evander has—once again—lost it. I see a bout only slightly more entertaining than the first. Lennox isn't about to set the world on fire, but his reach, along with a jab-and-clutch style, should carry him to a unanimous decision."

STERLING McPHERSON (manager of heavyweight contender Frans Botha): "I thought Lewis won the first fight, hands down. I think the title has diminished with these two guys; they've crucified the heavyweight title. The first fight was terrible, and this time, Lewis will stop this guy. Holyfield is finished. Holyfield's warrior image is over."

OLIVER McCALL (former WBC heavyweight champion): "Lennox is going to end up knocking Holyfield out. Lennox gained more confidence in being able to beat Holyfield the first fight. It's going to be more of a war. Lewis doesn't like to battle, but he'll be more confident this time. Lennox will get him in about seven or eight rounds. I don't think Holyfield can get past Lewis' height and reach advantages."

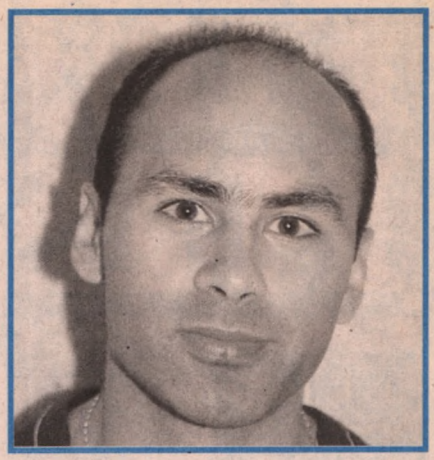
ROBERTO GARCIA (IBF junior lightweight champion): "It's a fight that we shouldn't have to see again, because everyone thought Lewis won the first fight. That's the way I saw it, and everyone else. This will be a better fight, because both fighters will come in wanting to prove to the world they are better. Lewis will win again. He outboxed Holyfield, and the same thing will happen again."

OMAR SHEIKA (super middleweight contender): "It will be a good fight, but I'd have to favor Lewis. Holyfield has problems with much bigger fighters like Lewis. Lewis will come with a lot more confidence and he'll try to knock Holyfield out this time around."



FRANS BOTHA (heavyweight contender): "Lewis will win this fight. The first fight wasn't very exciting, but I believe Holyfield can rise to the occasion, which he has done in the past with Mike Tyson. Lewis with his style and long reach advantage is very awkward, and if Holyfield is going to stay right in front of Lewis, then he will have a problem."

DAVID IZON (heavyweight contender): "Lewis is still going to win the fight. He won the last one and he's going to win this one again. Lennox will do the same thing he did in the last fight, and Holyfield will not do anything better."



CLAUDE ABRAMS (editor of the British weekly *Boxing News*): "I would say, much depends on Lewis' approach. If he fights the same fight and keeps Holyfield on the end of his jab, then he wins without any problem. If he fights an aggressive fight as far as going for a knockout, I believe he's playing into Holyfield's hands, and we could have a short, explosive contest with Holyfield winning by stoppage. I just have a feeling that Lewis is the 'Nearly Man,' the fighter who should have been proclaimed champion, but never was. Holyfield is an excellent rematch fighter; he has a smart boxing brain and knows he has to do something differently. I have a sneaking suspicion Holyfield is going to score a huge upset, which is something he's done before."

JIM LAMPLEY (HBO blow-by-blow announcer): "Unless Lewis has taken leave of his senses, I expect the same fight as the first. I expect a more aggressive effort from Holyfield, which will make a more exciting fight to watch. Lewis' physical and style advantages are too big. I'm one of those who doesn't believe Holyfield is shot. If they fought five years ago, it would have been the same fight. At the end of the day, I see Lewis winning by decision."

TOTALS:
LEWIS 16 HOLYFIELD 3

ARTURO GATTI FINALLY GETS HIS WIN...

BUT AT WHAT COST?

By Eric Raskin

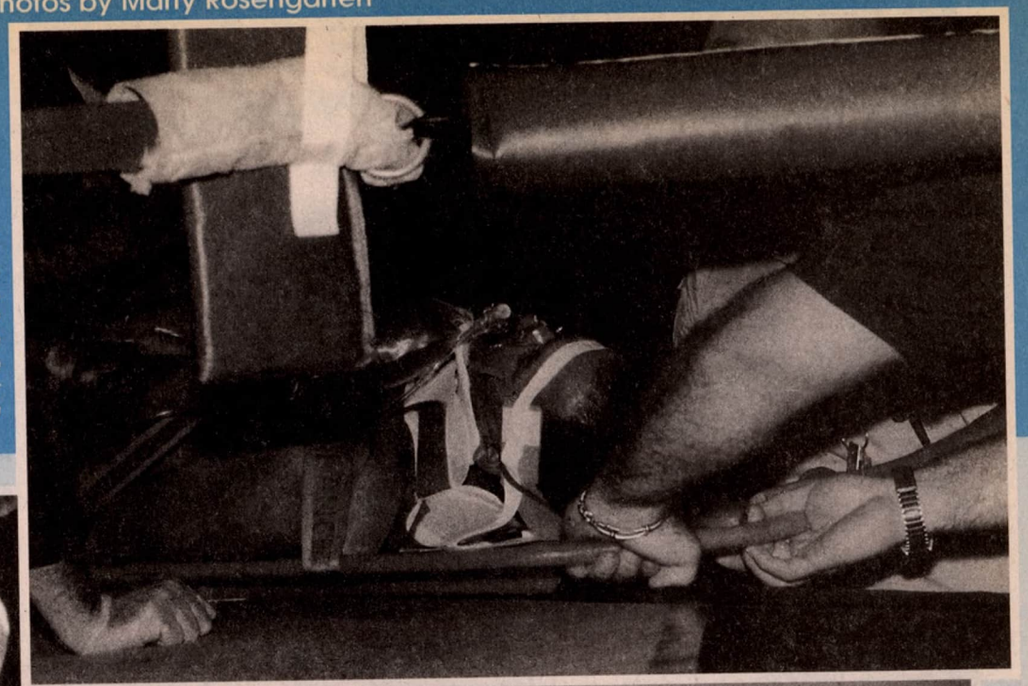
The streak is over. No, it wasn't the kind of streak that will go down in history alongside Joe DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak or even Jimmy Wilde's 98-fight unbeaten streak at the outset of his career, but to Arturo Gatti and his legions of fans, this streak was far more important. It was the streak that was threatening to ruin his career if it wasn't brought to a halt immediately, and on August 14, Gatti did finally rid himself of it. But while his first-round knockout of Reyes Munoz signified the end of Gatti's devastating three-fight losing skid, the script that played itself out that night at the Foxwoods Casino did not allow the world's most exciting fighter to end his *other* streak.

The streak that lives on is not nearly as crucial to Gatti's livelihood, but it is infinitely more incredible. For five consecutive fights now, Gatti has failed to show up for his own postfight press conferences. It started when he had to head to the hospital following his bruising October '97 win over Gabe Ruelas, it continued for the same reason after his loss to Angel Manfredy and his two defeats against Ivan Robinson in '98, and even though he hardly fielded a punch against Munoz, Gatti made it five straight when he wasn't on hand to talk to the press after his victorious comeback.

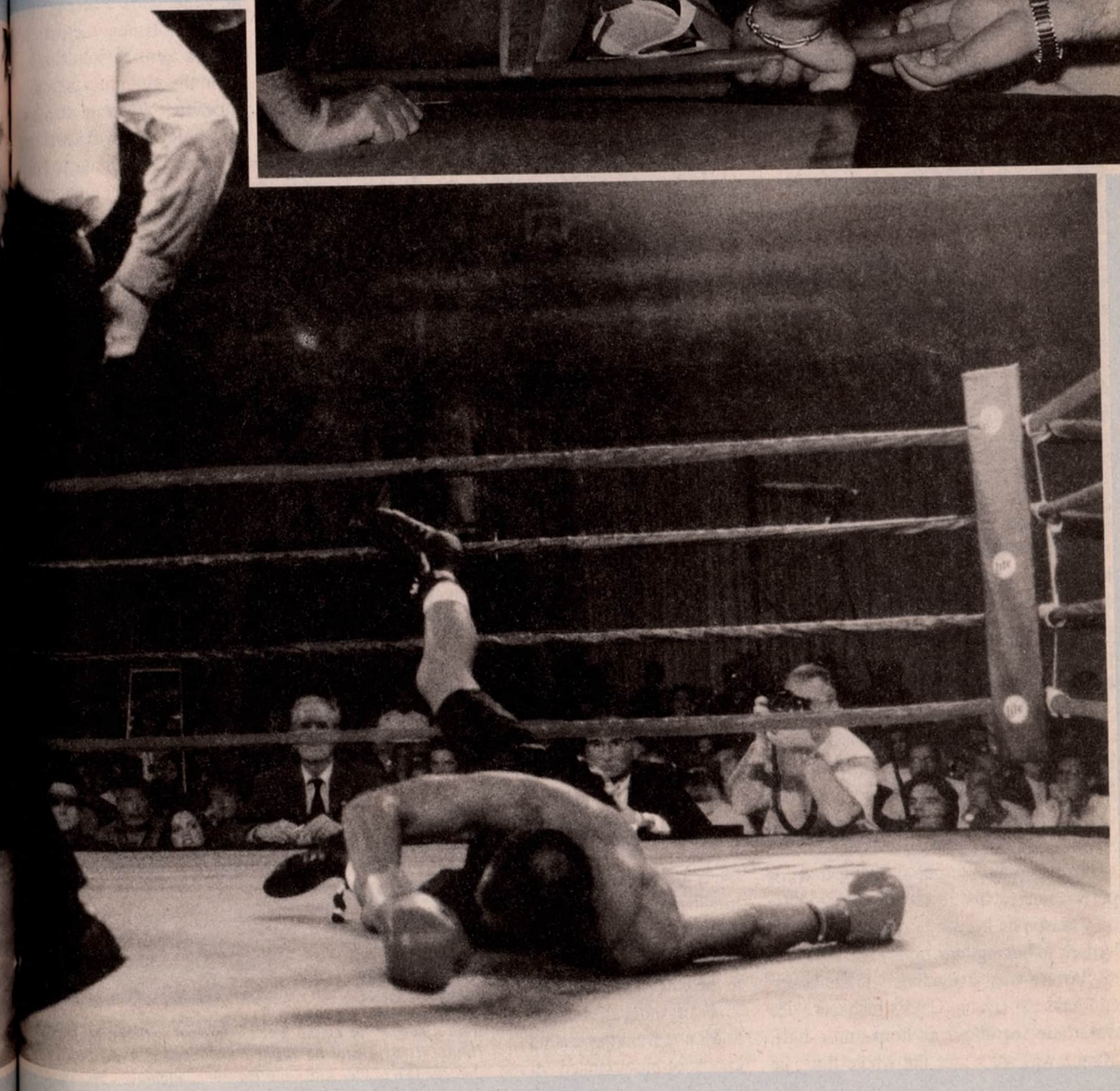
As usual, Gatti could be found at the hospital—in this case, Backus Hospital in nearby Norwich, Connecticut—while the press conference was going on. But on this bizarro night for Gatti, when everything turned out opposite to the way it normally does for the 27-year-old Canadian, he was not at the hospital because he had just been in a life-and-death struggle. He was there because there was a fear that his opponent might be in one.

"That's about as scared as I've ever been in the ring," said ringside physician Anthony Alessi after a single Gatti right hand high on the head left Munoz in a dangerous state. The punch landed just a second before the end of the first round, and it was followed by a harmless left hook to the shoulder as Munoz was falling to the canvas. Munoz got up instinctively, but as he staggered about on legs about as sturdy as those of the scarecrow in *The Wizard Of Oz*, briefly turning his back on referee Eddie Cotton and walking awkwardly into

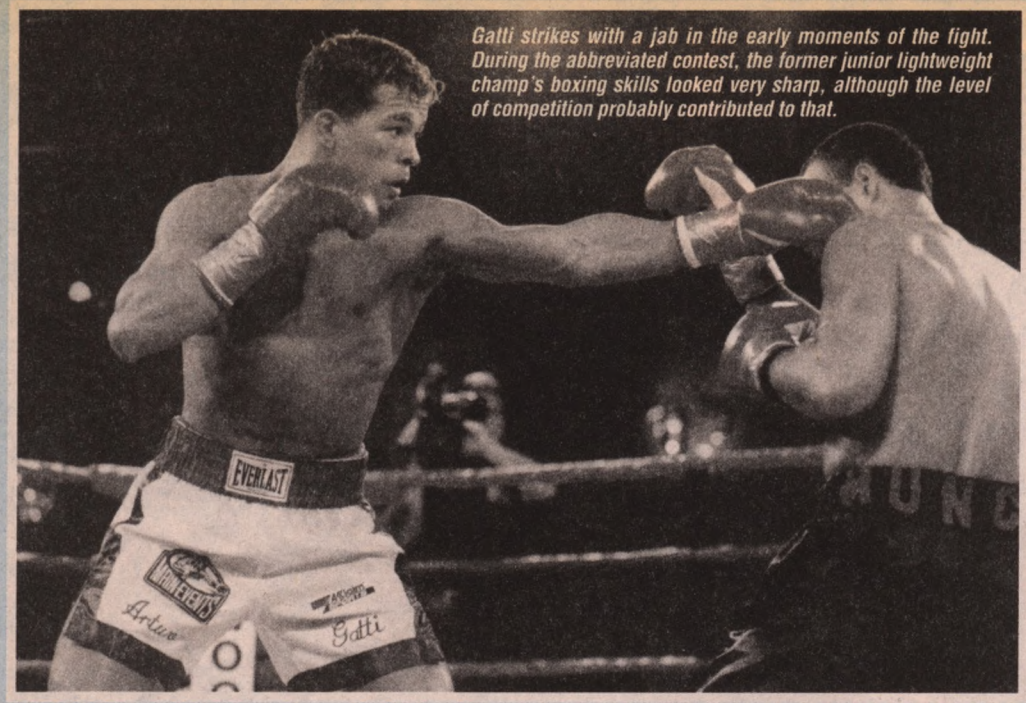
Photos by Marty Rosengarten



Munoz crashed awkwardly to the canvas after Gatti struck with a right hand high on the head at the end of the first round. After the fight was stopped, Munoz lost consciousness and had to be carried off on a stretcher (right), a scary ending to a disappointing bout.



THE BIBLE OF BOXING



Gatti strikes with a jab in the early moments of the fight. During the abbreviated contest, the former junior lightweight champ's boxing skills looked very sharp, although the level of competition probably contributed to that.

to further taint a win for Gatt that wasn't worth much to begin with. The former IBF junior lightweight champ's promoter, Main Events, wasn't taking any chances this time out, and Munoz, despite a respectable record of 21-3 (9) coming in, was probably the worst fighter ever featured on HBO–Ricky Frazier included. But could you blame Team Gatti? Robinson was meant to be a get-well opponent after Gatti's TKO loss to Manfredy, and the slick Philadelphia lightweight nonetheless captured a thrilling split decision over the suddenly skidding superstar. When another gallant points loss to Robinson followed, Gatti needed two things to begin his resurrection: a career-long eight-month layoff, and an opponent who, name-value be damned, would not have a chance of winning. And HBO was still glad to televise the mismatch because, let's face it, Gatti vs. a piece of driftwood has the

the ropes, Cotton waved the fight over without completing his count. As Allesi examined Munoz in his corner, he noticed that one of Munoz' pupils was larger than the other, often a sign of hemorrhage into the brain. The 30-year-old clubfighter lost consciousness while on his stool, and was promptly laid down on a stretcher and rushed into an ambulance. Gatti, suddenly feeling the kind of fear that others feel for him when he welcomes a six-punch combination with his hands at his side, was visibly shaken.

"I just hope he's all right, and I'm sorry," Gatti told HBO's Larry Merchant as he looked nervously over his shoulder at Munoz being carried off. "I didn't think I landed that hard, but I think it was on the head, so probably that's why ... they're probably just doing that so in case, anything, just a precaution.

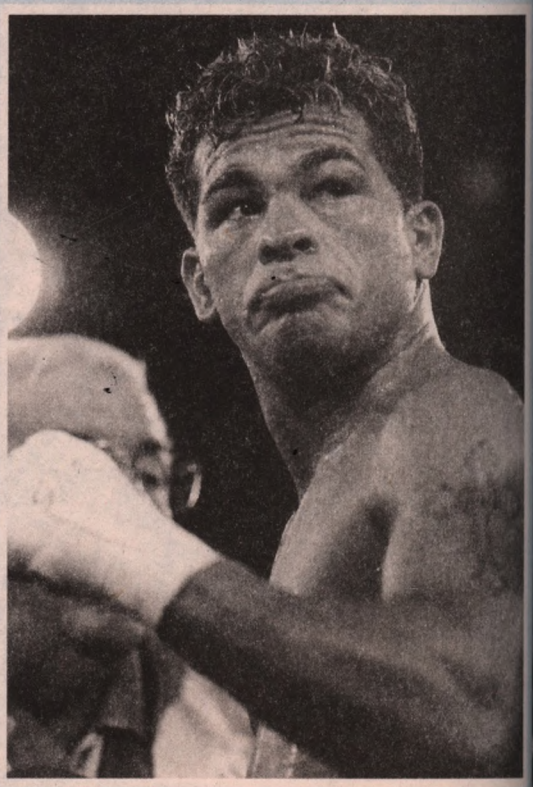
"I came here to win a fight tonight, nothing like this. My night's not the same now if he goes to the hospital, if he's not feeling right. This is not the way that I like to win a fight."

Gatti backed up his words of concern with immediate action, showing that his performances inside the ring aren't the only reason he has so thoroughly endeared himself to boxing fans.

"Arturo went immediately to the hospital," said Pat Lynch, Gatti's manager. "He was there for about an hour-and-a-half. Munoz was conscious the whole time, he and Arturo were talking. Munoz' parents, his brothers, his wife, they were all so happy to see Arturo there, they thought it was really nice. Arturo was just really upset about what happened."

As it turned out, Gatti didn't need to feel so much responsibility for Munoz' condition. It was later discovered that the "post-traumatic left third cranial nerve palsy" that Alessi diagnosed was a pre-existing condition, as Munoz had suffered a similar injury following a 1994 bout. Unfortunately, Munoz was cleared to fight because when time passes without him taking a serious punch, the condition improves to the point where it can't be detected in the prefight physicals. Munoz was released from the hospital about 36 hours after his arrival there, but the boxing career of the Puerto Rican assembly-line worker living in Erie, Pennsylvania, is most likely over. Dr. Alessi placed him on permanent medical suspension, meaning that he will never be allowed to box in the United States again.

Everything that happened to Munoz from the second the knockout blow landed served



Gatti's hunger for action was clearly not satiated by his one-round victory, and he looked a bit upset even before he realized that Munoz was suffering from complications.

otential to be wildly entertaining.

In hindsight, of course, we know that he matchmakers played it so safe by pick-ng Munoz that they played it downright angerous. And it didn't help Munoz' ause that Gatti stepped into the ring with a 5-pound weight advantage—an incredible 21 pounds, and three weight classes, above he seemingly comfortable 139 pounds at which he weighed in. Apparently moving p five pounds from the lightweight divi-ion didn't completely erase the strain Gatti uts on his body.

"Trying to make 140 instead of 135," Gatti said, "it was definitely easier for the ast couple weeks to lose the ast couple of pounds. It's been a couple of years, I guess, since I weighed in for fight a pound *under* the imit. But I wasn't surprised, you know, I worked hard and hat's how I wanted to come in, at 139. I wanted to see if I could still make the '30s.

"It's been like this for the ast three years, gaining a lot of weight after the weigh-in. I really think it's because my body's just like that. But tonight I did feel kinda slow, slower than I usually would be."

If Gatti was a little slower than normal, Munoz certainly wasn't the right opponent to exploit that. Munoz, who made $35,000 for the fight, more than 40 times as much as his previous career-high purse of $800, landed just four of 52 punches in the brief contest, according to CompuBox. That's a connect rate of eight percent ... against Gatti! That's almost like a pro basketball player hitting eight percent from the charity stripe.

"I'm a slow starter," Munoz offered afterward. "I got caught with a good punch, and I was dazed. I'm better than that."

Maybe so. Maybe if Munoz had slipped the critical right hand at the end of the round, the bout might have grown more competitive in the ensuing rounds. But for as long as it went, Gatti looked more comfortable and dominant than he'd been in years. He circled and jabbed with poise and patience, digging frequent shots to the body and rarely aiming upstairs with powerpunches. Sure, his left eye swelled slightly—Munoz did land four punches, after all—but this was as one-sided as a penny glued to a table top.

In Munoz' defense, the punch with which Gatti finished him wasn't necessarily a pure fluke. In Gatti's classic first battle with Robinson, an identical shot, a right cross high on the head, knocked his opponent to the floor in the fourth round. Munoz' collapse may have had nothing at all to do with his physical condition, and everything to do with Gatti's always dangerous one-punch power. After all, Gatti, 30-4 (25), is no stranger to the first-round kayo. Fourteen of the first 20 knockouts of his career came in round one, and two different times in the early-'90s, he went on streaks of four consecutive one-and-dones. Still, you could see in Gatti's ambivalent body language when the fight was stopped that he wasn't in such a hurry to get this one over with.

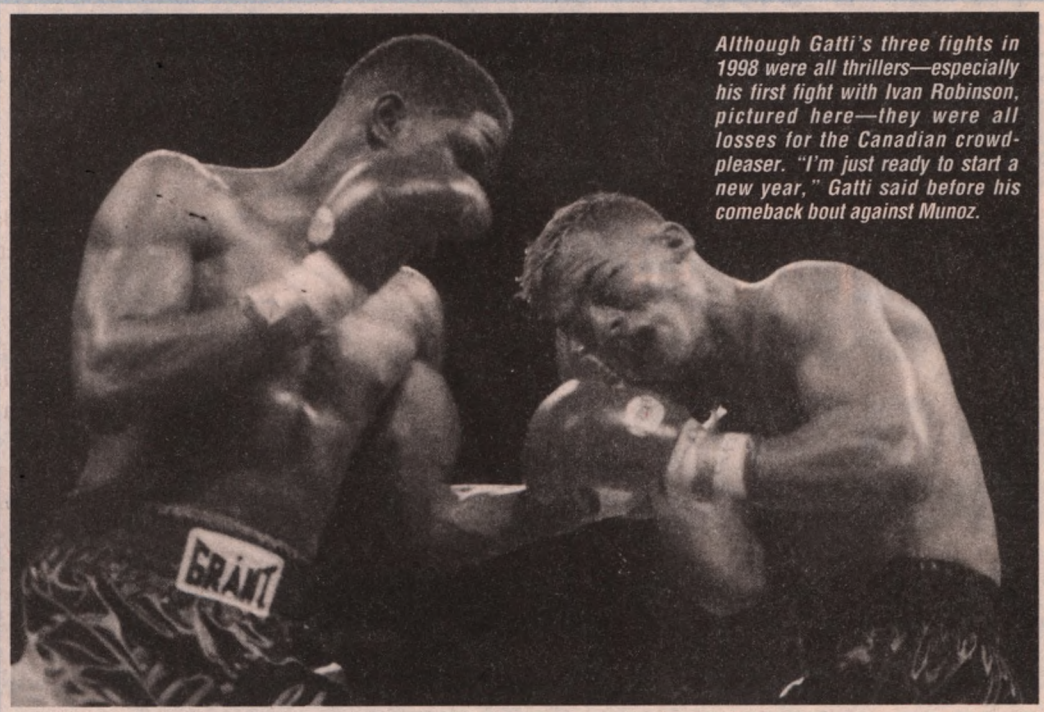
"You can never complain about a first-round knockout after the year we had last year," Lynch said, "but we were hoping he'd get three, four, five rounds, get a chance to get into his rhythm. Arturo was definitely disappointed that it ended so fast."

Gatti's thirst for ring combat is virtually unquenchable, and it had to have been close to an all-time high after such a long hiatus. He was bouncing around in the locker room area an hour before the fight so full of eagerness, you'd have thought he was about to walk down the aisle and marry a supermodel.

"I got the butterflies back, and I'm happy to be back," Gatti said beforehand. "You know, because I lost the last couple of fights, I'm really ready to get back in the ring. And the fights were close fights, they could have gone either way. The first one with Ivan Robinson, I think should have been mine, but what are you gonna do? I'm just ready to start a new year."

And with a win in his pocket (plus $300,000 for the blowout), Gatti has already distanced himself a bit from his upsetting '98 campaign. But in a bout of this nature, such a quickie against an outclassed clubfighter, there was little we could glean about whether "Thunder" is really rumbling at a championship level again. He didn't seem to be carrying the awesome punch he had at 130 pounds into his fights at 135, so its effectiveness at 140 can't be considered proven until he strikes with the same result against someone better than Munoz. It would also have been nice to have learned something about Gatti's stamina when he reaches a fight-time weight of 160 pounds, but three minutes of action revealed little in that regard.

(Continued on page 77)



Although Gatti's three fights in 1998 were all thrillers—especially his first fight with Ivan Robinson, pictured here—they were all losses for the Canadian crowd-pleaser. "I'm just ready to start a new year," Gatti said before his comeback bout against Munoz.

The Light Shines On A Faded Warrior

POWER SURGE SAVES CARBAJAL'S COMEBACK

By Ted Bodenrader

There was still a bit of sunlight raining down upon the Mexican desert by the time Michael Carbajal emerged from the shadows of his locker room. The rays that blanketed the faded ex-champ wouldn't hang around much longer, maybe another 10 minutes or so, before the skies would eventually fade to black. As the 31-year-old banger from Phoenix bounced nervously toward the hostile bullring known as the Toreo de Tijuana, Carbajal was hoping the light would continue to shine just a little bit longer on his comeback. Because for two years, Carbajal's once-brilliant career had been enveloped in utter darkness.

Nobody on earth could have fathomed the mental anguish that boiled within Carbajal since a ninth-round TKO loss to Baby Jake Matlala in July 1997, a loss that abruptly turned the lights out on a scintillating career. Nobody except the man who held the titles of manager, trainer, and mentor for the former Olympic silver medalist, Michael's older brother, Danny. Danny Carbajal was but a few feet away the night his brother's fight with Matlala was stopped by the most controversial arbitrator since Judge Ito. Yes, Richard Steele was in the house.

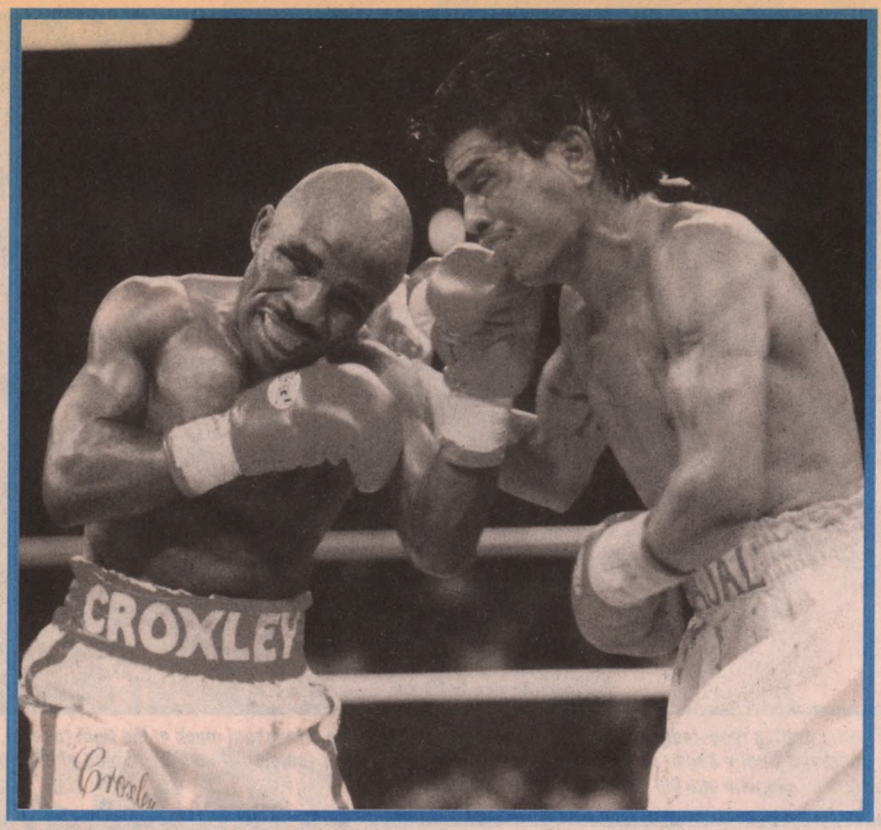
"It wasn't so much the fact that he lost it, it was the way he lost that devastated him," Danny explained. "Steele had no business stopping that fight. It was the

Photos by Chris Farina

After getting repeatedly pounded by the younger, fresher Arce throughout much of the fight (above), Carbajal finally began to find a home for his own right hand (below). It was Carbajal's ability to turn a fight with one big punch that allowed him to prevail.

Right eye swollen shut, trunks stained with his own blood, Carbajal has his arm raised by referee Raul Caiz following his come-from-behind, 11th-round TKO of Jorge Arce in Tijuana. The spectacular victory has put the 31-year-old former champion back in the spotlight.

Photo by Chris Farina



Carbajal was so disgusted after being stopped on cuts in the ninth round by Baby Jake Matlala in 1997 that he quit boxing for two years. During the hiatus, he rested and rekindled his desire to fight, finally launching a comeback earlier this year.

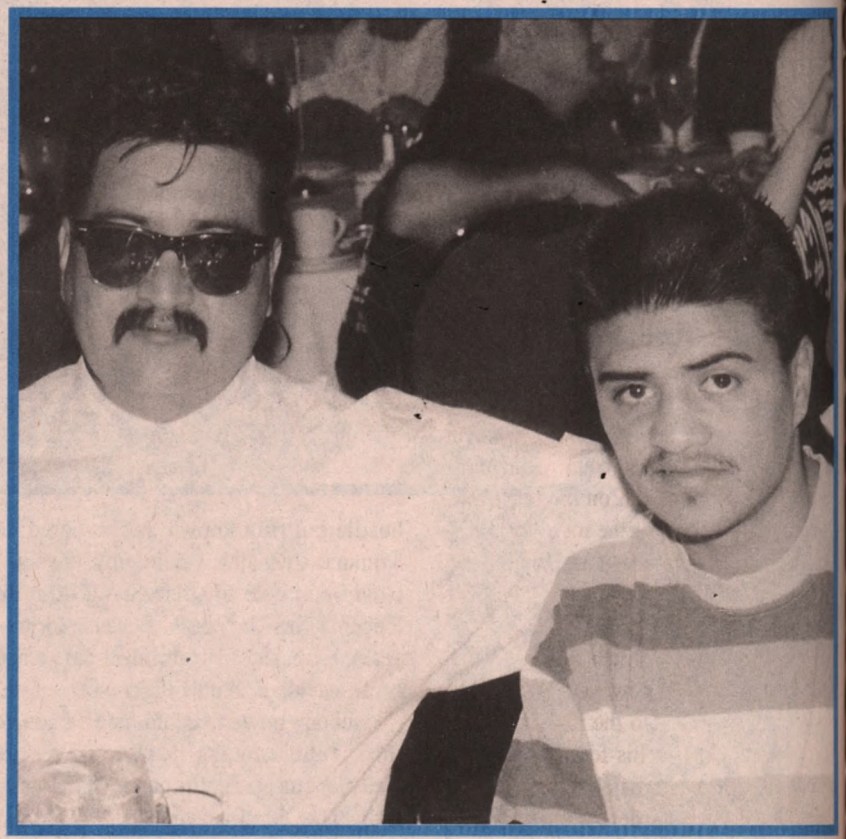
Two years of dormancy, rest, and contemplation rekindled the fire in Carbajal's pupils. It was ignited in his comeback victory in May and it would certainly be blazing in Tijuana. And it would need to be for the challenge that awaited. This was not like the nights of recent past, Carbajal knew, when his star power easily eclipsed the nobodies named Oscar Calzada and Oscar Andrade. In this fight, the fourth of his comeback from a two-year hiatus, Carbajal knew it was an entirely different constellation. On this night, he himself was the fighter, and the 21-year-old Mexican charging toward him was the raging bull.

Then, just as he knew it would, the day finally gave way to darkness. Out came the stars, particularly the one shining before him, the rising one known as Jorge Arce. Arce's star hadn't been shining for long, just a few years to be exact, but it certainly figured to be gleaming by the end of the night. To junior flyweight Arce, Carbajal was merely a steppingstone to a radiant career, much the way Hector Camacho was to Felix Trinidad and Julio Cesar Chavez was to Oscar De la Hoya. But Arce wasn't planning to merely step on Carbajal. He

first time he'd ever been stopped, and he didn't handle it well."

But the Matlala debacle, Danny says, was just the inevitable effect. The cause of such misfortune came from years of shady politics, broken deals, and all of the unfavorable side effects that exhaust anyone and everyone involved in the sport. Carbajal's pure love for boxing had subsided in him like flat soda. He was lifeless and helplessly uninspired, anything but the focused assassin that Danny began constructing back in 1980. That prefight look that had always been in his eyes, the one Danny says made him look like he wanted to "hurt somebody," it had been replaced by a lusterless, apathetic one. So the two brothers came to a joint conclusion.

"We knew that the fire was no longer there and that our only choice was to retire," Danny said. "But we knew at the time that we'd be back. If we had just been inactive for a while, people would have been coming up to us all the time, asking when we'd be fighting again. So we told everybody we were done. For Michael to get the desire back, he needed to be completely away from it for a while."



The one constant throughout Carbajal's career has been his brother Danny, who acts as manager, trainer, and mentor. Both were pelted with debris by unhappy Mexican fans after Michael stopped Arce.

was planning to stomp his once blazing career right out.

On the other hand, Carbajal's day in the sun seemed light years in his past. His star was still flickering—but barely.

Meanwhile, the raucous Mexican fans swarmed around the ring, chanting for Carbajal's blood. When the bullfight began, the bull began to deliver. Carbajal would dodge left, Carbajal would dodge right, but the bull would connect with him head on. Arce began displaying the kind of hand and foot speed that Carbajal once built a championship career with. He began to boogey around the ring like a young Michael Jackson, thumping heavy combinations off Carbajal's head, showing that he too was plenty bad. Each time he did so, the wild Mexican crowd would reward him with cheers that echoed throughout the stadium.

It was like looking in a mirror, Carbajal thought, as he ate a stinging right hand that sent him reeling backward momentarily. Except the reflection this mirror bore was of the Carbajal from years past. He would have preferred to match the younger Arce's pitter with his own patter, but the slower Carbajal had but one choice. He'd have to go bombs away.

So Carbajal's first four rounds were like an Iraqi air strike. There was nothing to offer but wasted anti-aircraft missiles that strayed far from their intended targets. One at a time they were launched, and one at a time they would dreadfully miss.

Two rounds later, even if it was just a passing flash, Carbajal finally saw a rekindling twinkle and a glimmer of hope. From a young man who showed few signs of mortality throughout the night, Carbajal finally saw a mere ounce of humanity in Arce's bull-like performance. At 1:40 of the sixth round, a swift right hand counter caught the unsuspecting Arce flush on the left temple and dropped him along the ropes for a flash knockdown. For the heavy artillery that had been missing the entire night, one had finally crashed home for Carbajal.

As quickly as the rush of hope would invigorate Carbajal, however, it would just as soon evaporate into the night. Arce not only sprung back to his feet like a cat, he also brushed off Carbajal's best shot and came back even harder, whamming and slamming away on Carbajal through the remainder of the round.

Photo by Chris Farina

Carbajal displayed durability and courage against Arce, hanging tough through the bloody beating his adversary dished out. His reward could be a rematch with Arce or Matlala sometime in the near future.

Only a few minutes later, the beating became so lopsided that Carbajal's right eye became swollen shut under the grueling punishment. By the ninth round, the left eye was bleeding profusely and bearing a similar puffiness. To Carbajal, it didn't matter. He could still see everything clearly. He could still see the twinkle of hope.

"I'm a warrior and I never quit," said Carbajal. "And I'll always have the power to take the guy out with one shot."

Carbajal's past achievements had already placed him among the mix of the decade's greats like Chavez, De La Hoya, and Roy Jones. But over the ensuing three rounds, he added his name to a different clique, the one occupied by indomitable diehards like Evander Holyfield, Arturo Gatti, and Vinny Pazienza, guys who could survive a collision with a bus to continually keep chugging forward all night long. While the lights were dimming, Carbajal just continued to wing away with all his power, knowing that in his sport, all it takes is one. And that "one" came midway through the 11th round.

"I could see that he just wanted to box me at that point," Carbajal said. "So I just wanted to land a big right hand."

And that he did. The big right that lit up the night came crashing down at the halfway point in the round. Arce, carelessly basking in the luxury of overconfidence, never saw the counterpunch that ripped through his chin with the force of a sledgehammer. When the stricken Arce reeled into the ropes, Carbajal unloaded two years of bad feelings for Matlala and Steele over the ensuing eight-punch flurry that left the Mexican favorite stumbling around the ring like a barroom drunk and forced referee Raul Caiz to call a halt at the 1:53 mark.

Arce, 20-3-1 (15), bearing hardly a scratch across his boyish face, quietly collected the reality little by little, piece by piece. The fame, the money, the budding future, it would all have to hold off for a while. Instead, he was left to contemplate one of boxing's harshest lessons.

"He'll be back," assured Carbajal, 49-4 (33), knowing well that the young Arce,

(Continued on page 78)

Still Undefeated

It's good to be back. The 36-year-old Ayala acknowledges the cheers of his hometown crowd as referee Rafael Ramos raises his arm in victory following the ex-con's first fight in 17 years.

Photos by Ronald Martinez/Allsport

By Bernard Fernandez

For too many of his first 19 years of life, Tony Ayala Jr. must have thought he was the second coming of Jim Morrison instead of Jake LaMotta. If the mantra of the deceased rock 'n' roll artist was "live hard, die young, and leave a good-looking corpse," the only thing Ayala lacked as he rose through the junior middleweight ranks in the early-1980s was an electric guitar at the scene of his impending demise. Too much heroin. Too much booze. Too many late nights in speeding cars on twisting roads. And way, way too much hostility—directed at himself, at women, at innocent bystanders, at life in general—to guarantee much more than an outside shot at growing old gracefully, or at all.

"The lifestyle I was living was dangerous," Ayala, now 36, said a few days before his first fight in nearly 17 years, a third-round knockout of 21-year-old Manuel Esparza August 20 in San Antonio's Freeman Coliseum. "I didn't see myself living beyond 30. The hard truth is that if I hadn't been convicted [of aggravated sexual assault], I doubt I would have survived another year. I'd probably have won a title and soon after died of an overdose or something else. That's the truth. So this is a blessing."

Not many people would describe 16 years of incarceration as a "blessing," but Ayala had a lot of time behind prison walls to consider his circumstances. There is little question he would have torn through Davey Moore, whose WBA 154-pound title he expected to lift in an early-1983 bout that had been signed for and sealed, if not delivered. Beating up other men in the ring was never a problem for the wild child known as "El Torito," the Little Bull. Conquering the demons within himself, the ones that continually pushed him to the brink of self-destruction, was quite another matter.

"Davey Moore got stopped by Tony twice in sparring," said Ayala's father-

After 19 Years

TONY AYALA'S TRIUMPHANT RETURN!

Just like old times: Despite the passage of time, Ayala can still crank up the left hook to the body. He twice floored Manuel Esparza with hooks to the midriff in the third round to record a knockout at the 2:50 mark and run his record to 23-0 (20).

trainer, Tony Ayala Sr., in recalling some spirited, long-ago workouts. "Once, in Lake Tahoe, they were sparring and it turned into a fight. Davey came strong at Tony, and Tony had to lay him out. No way Tony would have lost to Davey Moore."

And beyond the $750,000 payday and world title his son would have earned by thrashing Moore in a bout that counted? The elder Ayala's imagination has taken him to all the places that might have been, the building blocks of legend assembling as neatly in his mind as if all those dream fights had actually happened.

"I honestly believe he would have beaten Thomas Hearns and Sugar Ray Leonard," Tony Sr. said. "Tony and Marvin Hagler would have been a great, great fight. Roberto Duran? He was made for us. We wanted that fight so bad. In

Comeback opponent Esparza talked tough during the prefight hype, but had very little to offer once the opening-round bell sounded. Ayala soon had his 21-year-old adversary on the ropes and in serious trouble (below).

fact, we were scheduled to fight Duran. There was some contract problems and [Duran] pulled out and fought some guy named Kirkland Laing instead."

Tony Sr. sighs, like a man who was looking through the window of history when suddenly the blinds were drawn. All he can do, all anyone can do, is wonder about "El Torito's" place in an era that is gone and is never coming back.

Perhaps, if he only were interested in the fanciful illusions that have cloaked memories of him while he was away, Ayala would have announced, upon his release from New Jersey's Bayside State Prison, that he had given up any notion of a return to his former profession. Better to leave us with the perception of greatness than the sad reality of a talent too rusted to ever be restored to its one-time luster. But boxing is all that Ayala knew on the outside, and who could blame him for wanting to take a last stab at scaling the summit? Leonard, Hearns, Hagler, and Duran had moved on, but now there were new names at which to take aim: Oscar De La Hoya, Felix Trinidad, David Reid, Fernando Vargas, Bernard Hopkins.

"There were many times I thought this nightmare would never end," Ayala said two days after he gained his freedom. "I recognize how blessed I am. Not everyone is as fortunate as me. First and foremost is my adjustment back into the real world. I want to make sure my mind is at peace, my soul is at peace."

And boxing?

"Knowing there was a trailblazer before me adds to my confidence," Ayala said of George Foreman, who won his second heavyweight championship in 1994, at 45, seven years after he ended a 10-year, self-imposed retirement. "It makes me believe that anything is possible.

"This is an opportunity I will never get again, and the window of that opportunity is closing. It has to be done quickly. Time is not on my side at this stage."

It thus was with a sense of urgency that Ayala threw himself back into training for his improbable comeback. He was 196 pounds when he left Bayside, 202 a few days later after gorging himself on his mother's enchiladas, tortillas, and tacos, the sort of culinary treats that are not readily available to inmates of the New Jersey penal system. But four months to the day after his release from prison, Ayala entered

the ring in Freeman Coliseum weighing a trim and taut 160.

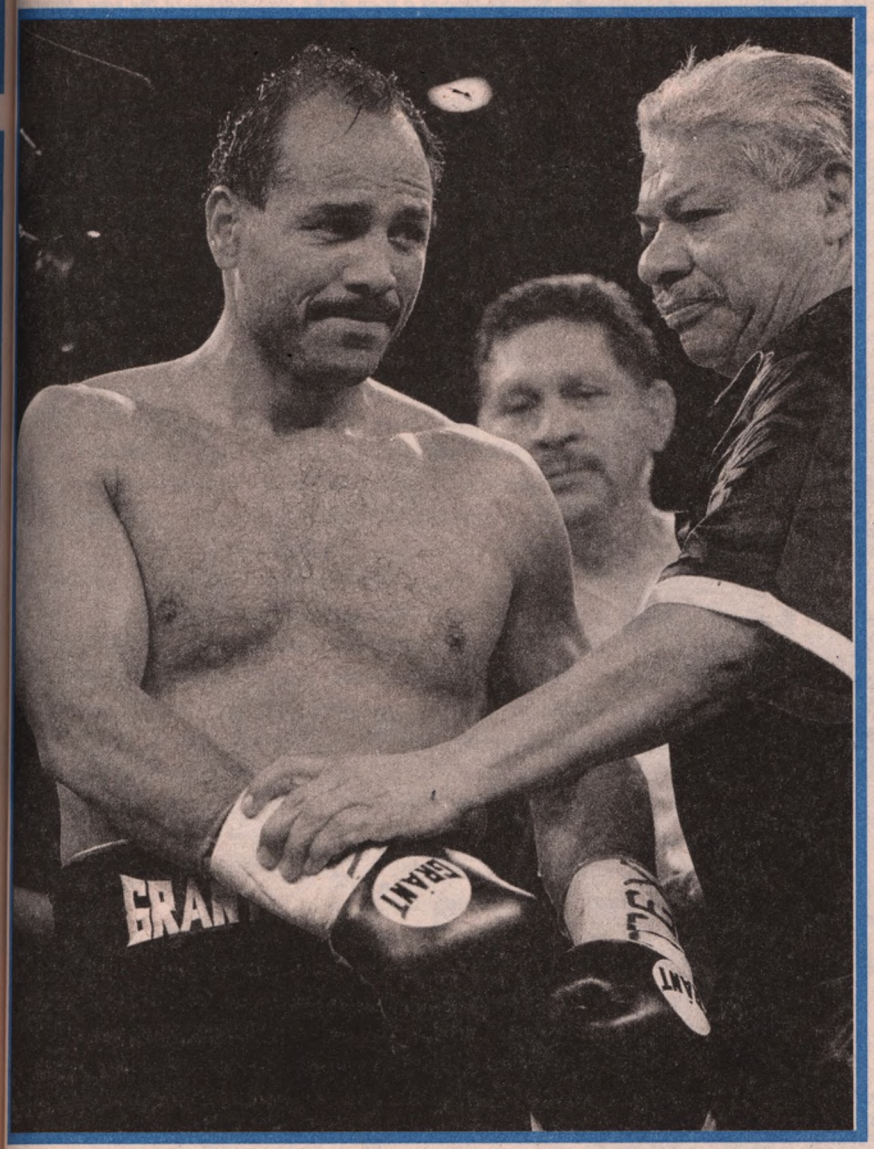
So far, so good. But what would happen when the punches started flying? Would Ayala's streamlined physique suggest a real career renewal? Or would he be exposed as just another old guy trying vainly to recapture past glories? Tony Sr. was cautiously optimistic in the days leading up to the fight, which generated surprisingly strong interest in Ayala's hometown of San Antonio.

"His hand speed is good, his defense is good, his legs are good," Tony Sr. said. "Everything is good. But I have to be honest with myself, and with him. Seventeen years of ring rust is going to be there. There's a big difference between sparring in the gym and when the bell rings for the real thing. There's a big difference between the 20-ounce gloves you use in sparring and the 10-ounce gloves you use in a real fight. But what I have noticed in Tony is that he hasn't lost that fire. He hasn't lost that power.

"When he sparred with James Coker, who's a big junior middleweight, and a southpaw, James hit him in the gut. I mean, a real shot. A left uppercut. Tony went down on one knee. A lot of fighters, when they get hurt or if they're in a hard fight, want to quit. Tony's first instinct was to get up and turn up the gas. They were drilling each other, you know? Tony is a warrior. If you're a warrior when you're young, you'll be a warrior 'til the day you die."

Warrior's instincts or not, Tony Sr. was not prepared to drop his son back into the

Ayala almost created a public relations disaster by insulting local hero Jesse James Leija (pictured), but apologized before the fight, which drew a crowd of more than 10,000 fans to San Antonio's Freeman Coliseum.



Fernando Vargas and David Reid can rest easy for the time being. Tony Ayala Sr. (right) was pleased with his son's performance, but doesn't want to rush him into a big fight before he's ready.

cauldron at too high a level of competition. Oh, sure, the Ayalas could have gone for the quick score; tales of the long-delayed return of the prodigal son, whose story had received national media attention, might have helped bring El Torito as much as $1-million against a big-name opponent. But the comeback likely would have been dead on arrival, and Ayala would have been crying all the way to the bank.

"Tony can't fight all the up-and-coming fighters, not right away," Tony Sr. said. "Fernando Vargas, David Reid, guys like that ... their promotional groups have been very selective in making their fights. So we have to do the same thing. There's a lot of money out there, but we're not going to rush Tony into something before he's ready. Right now my thinking is that after six fights, I'll put him in with somebody like a Yory Boy Campas. That should give me an idea of where he is and where he needs to be."

There was, Tony Sr. admitted, the possibility that Tony Jr. might never make it as far as Yory Boy, much less De La Hoya.

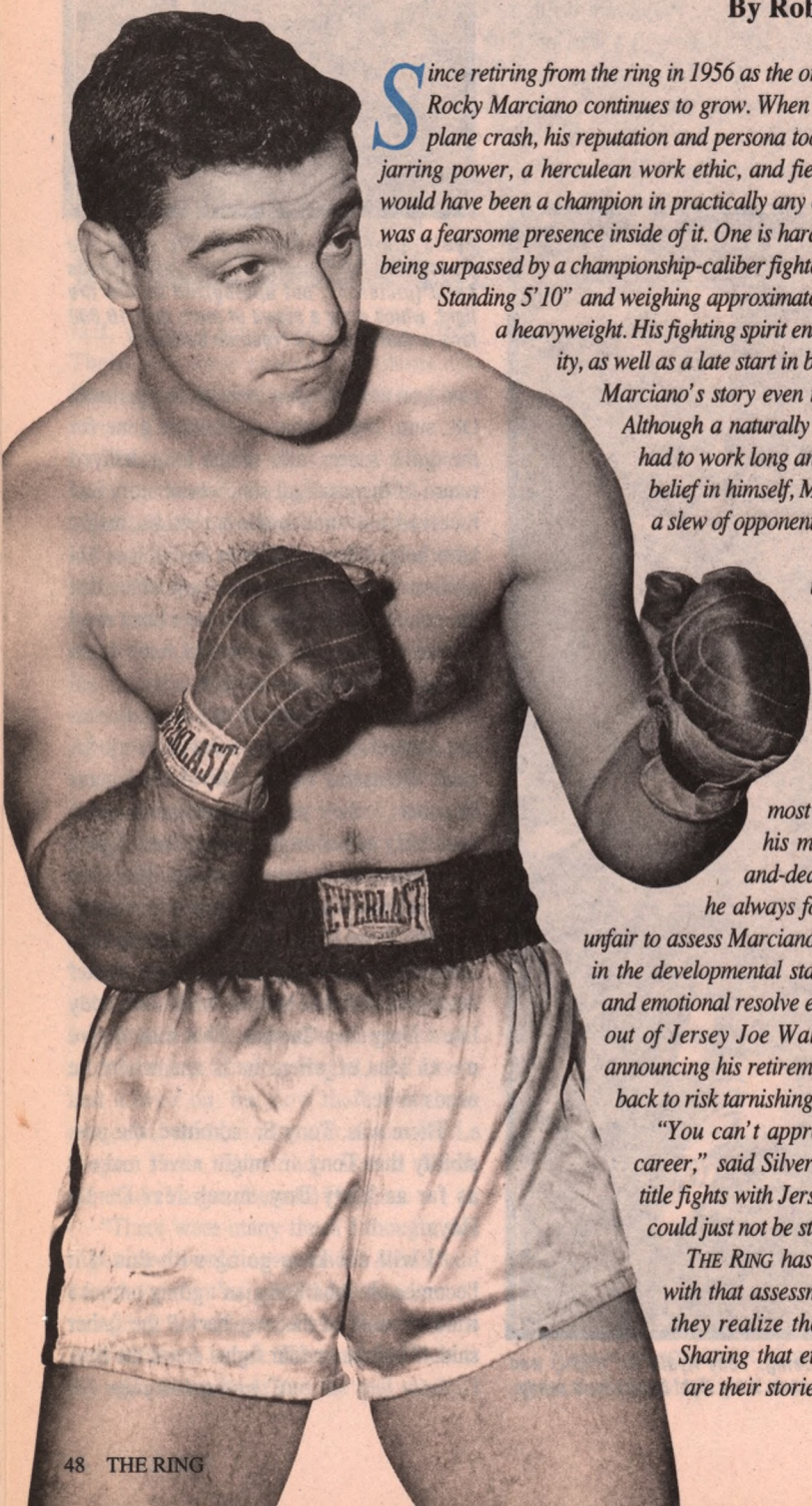
"I will not keep going with this if it becomes obvious Tony isn't going to make it all or most of the way back," the father said. "If, three or four fights down the line,

(Continued on page 78)

FIVE OPPONENTS REMEMBER THE ROCK

"He Just Never Stopped Throwing Punches"

By Robert Mladinich



Since retiring from the ring in 1956 as the only undefeated heavyweight champion in history, the legend of Rocky Marciano continues to grow. When the Brockton, Massachusetts, native was killed in a '69 Iowa plane crash, his reputation and persona took on even greater mythical proportions. Known for his bone-jarring power, a herculean work ethic, and fierce body-punching abilities, it is generally assumed that he would have been a champion in practically any era. As nice of a man as he was outside of the ring, Marciano was a fearsome presence inside of it. One is hard-pressed to imagine his unblemished record of 49-0 (43) ever being surpassed by a championship-caliber fighter.

Standing 5'10" and weighing approximately 185 pounds, Marciano was, by today's standards, small for a heavyweight. His fighting spirit enabled him to overcome a lack of speed, grace, and natural ability, as well as a late start in boxing and many near catastrophes on the way up. What makes Marciano's story even more incredible is the fact that he always looked so beatable. Although a naturally gifted baseball and football player, boxing was something he had to work long and hard at. Because of his unparalleled work ethic and inherent belief in himself, Marciano managed to excel in the toughest of vocations against a slew of opponents much more naturally gifted than himself.

"Rocky had unbelievable determination, which is the most important tool for any fighter," former heavyweight champion Floyd Patterson said several years ago. "He was clumsy, got hit a lot, and didn't look much like a conventional fighter. Sometimes he looked like he had two left feet. But he had so much determination and belief in himself. And that made him heavyweight champion of the world."

As awkward as he could look at times, even Marciano's most ardent critics admit he would have fared well against many of his modern-day counterparts. Although he engaged in many life-and-death, ebb-and-flow battles, whether bloodied, beaten, or both, he always found a way to win. Boxing historian Michael Silver says it is unfair to assess Marciano on the basis of some of his earlier bouts because he was still in the developmental stages. But his never-say-die disposition and immense physical and emotional resolve enabled him to win the crown with a savage 13th-round knockout of Jersey Joe Walcott in '52, and go on to defend the title six times before announcing his retirement four years later. Much to his credit, Marciano never came back to risk tarnishing his illustrious legacy.

"You can't appreciate Marciano by looking at him in the early part of his career," said Silver. "To understand the real Marciano, you have to look at his title fights with Jersey Joe Walcott, Ezzard Charles, and Archie Moore. The man could just not be stopped, and didn't know the definition of the word quit."

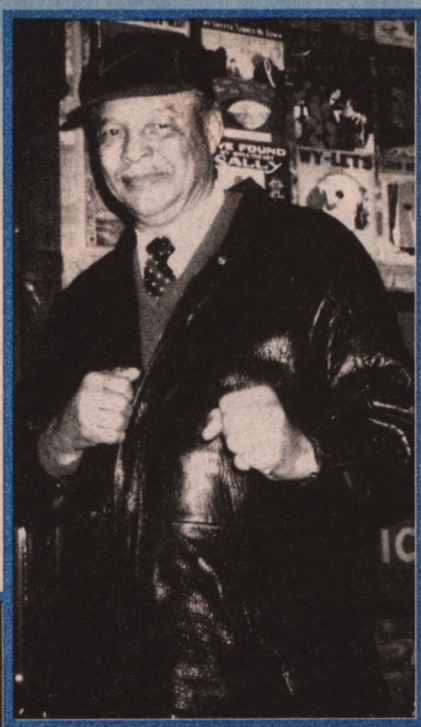
THE RING has located five of Marciano's opponents, most of whom agree with that assessment. Although decades removed from their own ring glories, they realize they will forever be linked to "The Brockton Blockbuster." Sharing that eternal kinship has brought them a great deal of pride. These are their stories:

COLEY WALLACE: Though ey never fought as professionals, Wallace hieved a degree of fame by outpointing the ude, brawling Marciano at the 1948 urnament of Champions competition in ston. The tall, lanky, slick-boxing Wallace re an uncanny resemblance to former avyweight champion Joe Louis, and even ayed "The Brown Bomber" in the movie e *Joe Louis Story*. He remembers his fight ith Marciano as being much easier than he er expected.

"Marciano was like a streetfighter, a good eginner," said the 72-year-old Wallace. "He as swinging wild, never hit me solid, and idn't hit that hard. I even had him down. He rew just arm punches then, but got a lot bet- when he turned professional. I wanted to ght him as a pro, but never got the chance."

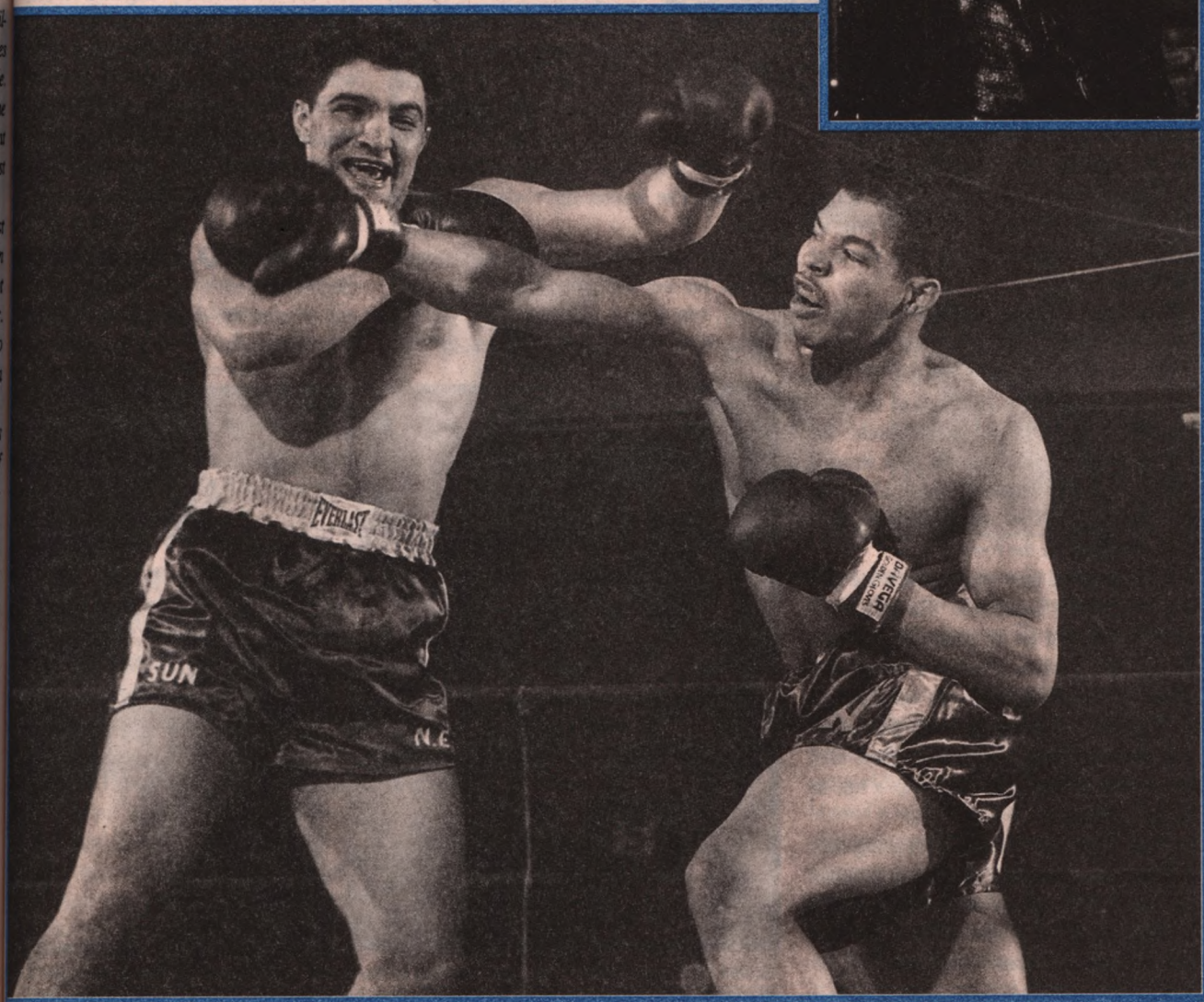
Wallace had a relatively generic profes- nal career that lasted from 1950 to '56 and w him retire with a 20-7 (15) record. He was stopped by both Jimmy Bivins and Ezzard Charles. Wallace does not have particularly fond memories of that chapter in his life, and blames his relative lack of professional success on consistent efforts by the underworld to take the reins of his career. Prior to one bout in which he says he refused to take a dive, he believes that he was poisoned. After leaving the game, Wallace worked as a barber, as well as a car and liquor salesman. Both of his wives succumbed to cancer, the most recent 11 years ago. He still lives in Manhattan.

KEENE SIMMONS: The Bayonne, New Jersey, brawler fought Marciano in January '51 and gave the future champion a very difficult fight. At the time, Simmons' record was 8-7-1 (3), but he had lost split decisions to top prospects Roland LaStarza and Cesar Brion. His seemingly



Coley Wallace's lasting claim to fame is that he beat Marciano in the amateurs (below). Although his own pro career never reached the championship level, the 72-year-old ex-fighter (right) is still healthy and lives in New York City.

Photo by Robert Mladinich



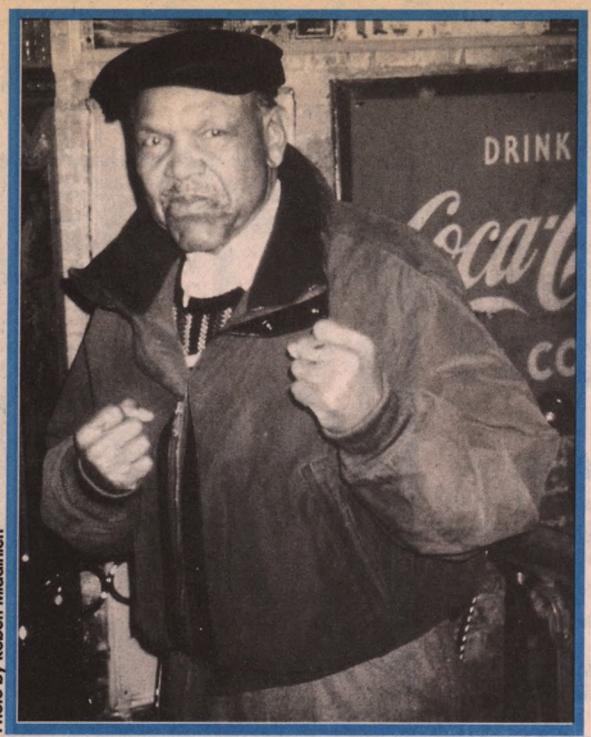


Photo by Robert Mladinich

Now 79 years old, journeyman Keene Simmons gave Marciano a rough time before being stopped in the eighth round of their 1951 bout. When Marciano won the world championship, Simmons became one of "The Rock's" regular sparring partners.

nominal record belied an abundance of talent. Although he lost a decision to George Washington and was stopped by Sonny Parisi in '49, his first year as a pro, he reversed both of those losses with victories the following year.

He came awfully close to pulling a huge upset in his fight with Marciano in Providence, Rhode Island. Simmons had Marciano close to a knockout in the fifth round of their bloody and furious battle. The referee halted the fight with only six seconds remaining in the eighth round, although Keene was still on his feet and many thought he could easily go the route.

"Rocky could take a good punch and give one, too," said Simmons. "He was not a fancy boxer, but he hit hard and just kept putting combinations together. I managed to cut his eye, and thought I was winning. But Rocky had so much power and determination, I can't take anything away from him. Every time I hit him, which was a lot, he came right back."

Two years after that heartbreaking loss, Simmons faced another murderous puncher, Cleveland Williams, and lost a close decision. When asked recently who hit harder, he proclaimed without hesitation that Marciano did. Simmons went on to become a longtime sparring partner for Marciano after he became champion. He was paid $15 to $25 a round. He retired from the ring in '55 with a 9-21-1 (4) record.

For 20 years Simmons was employed as a New York City bus driver, and he has been married to his wife Thelma for 42 years. Still a fine physical specimen at 79, Simmons is only five pounds over his fighting weight of 190 pounds. He resides in Queens, New York, and is a regular attendee at the monthly Ring 8 Veteran Boxer Association meetings.

TED LOWRY: The consummate journeyman fought a veritable who's who of contenders and almost always went the distance with them. He managed to make history of sorts by lasting the distance twice with Marciano. Many believed Lowry, whose record stood at 48-47-8 (33) for the first encounter, deserved the nod in that one. The second fight was not all that close.

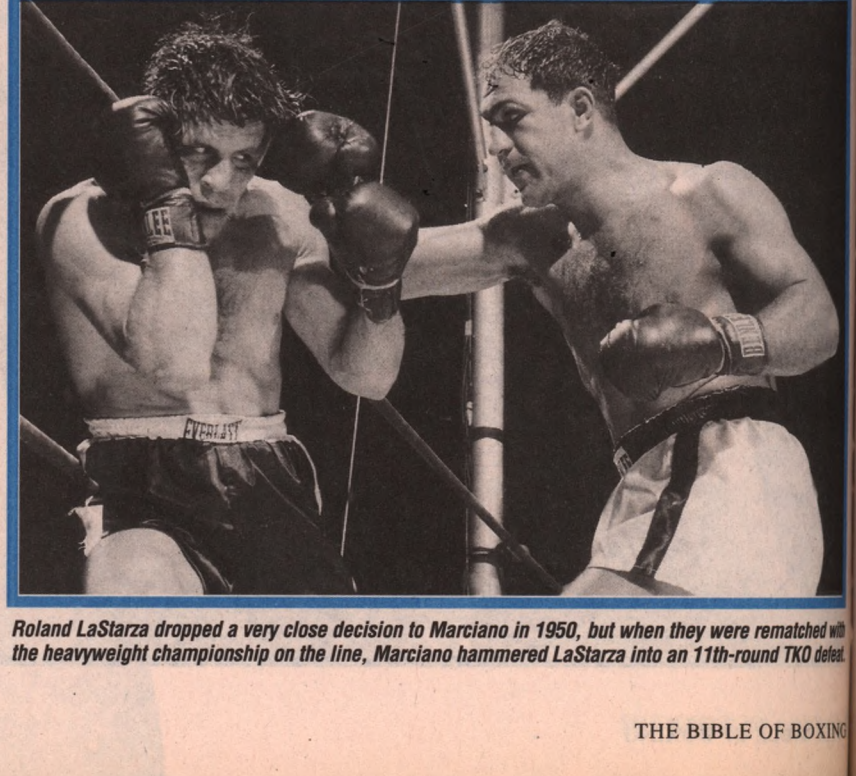
"Marciano was good and well-conditioned, but not that smart in the ring," said Lowry, who is now 79 and lives in Norwalk, Connecticut. "I always thought I had the right style to beat him if I had prepared more. But I can't take anything away from him, because he did retire undefeated. But I couldn't see him beating guys like Archie Moore, Joe Louis, and Jersey Joe Walcott if they were not on their way out. But he would definitely beat a guy like Mike Tyson. He just never quit."

Lowry had a reputation for being nearly impossible to hit solidly, a factor that caused great frustration for the future champion. Marciano was quoted as saying that he could have fought Lowry 100 times and still been unable to stop him. Lowry's career lasted from 1940 to '55 and saw him retire with a record of 55-66-9 (37). He was stopped only three times, even though he more often than not took fights on short notice for short money in faraway places.

After his retirement, he owned a small construction company, but was forced to give it up after suffering a minor heart attack 10 years ago. He still works full-time as a glass installer and teaches youngsters the rudiments of boxing a few nights a week at the Norfolk YMCA. He has been married to his second wife, Alice, for 34 years.

"As long as people remember Rocky Marciano, they will always remember 'Tiger' Ted Lowry," he said. "That's a feather in my cap because it makes me a part of history."

ROLAND LaSTARZA: The clean-cut, slick-boxing Bronx, New York, native went the distance with Marciano in their first encounter in March '50, and was



Roland LaStarza dropped a very close decision to Marciano in 1950, but when they were rematched with the heavyweight championship on the line, Marciano hammered LaStarza into an 11th-round TKO defeat.

THE PROVIDENCE JOURNAL, TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1949

MARCIANO GETS DECISION OVER TED LOWRY

...CKY'S SHOWING ...S WEAK AGAINST VETERAN BOXER

...kton Boy Just Weathers ...rly Storm, Then Foe's Attack Slackens

By MICHAEL J. THOMAS

...re were strange developments ... questions left unanswered as ...y Marciano, undefeated young ...dom heavyweight, was award... unanimous decision over Tiger ... Lowry of New Haven in their ...under at the Auditorium last ...

...rciano, in the first place, did ...win the fight, as this observer ... it. This reporter gave it to ...y, six rounds to four, but this ...t the dilemma—hardly.

...ere was some question ...

Series Players Start Home; Second Guessers Carry On

Shotton Criticized Sharply for Letting Branca Pitch to Mize in 3rd Game

By GAYLE TALBOT

New York, Oct. 10.—(AP)—The winning Yankees and the losing Dodgers began scattering for their homes today to await fat World Series checks from Commissioner Chandler.

The happy Yanks, who survived everything except flood and fire in their limping progress toward a 12th world championship, held a colossal vic... ag... re... ne... gu...

games, the Dodgers' two best run... ners, Jackie Robinson and Peewee Reese, seldom were on base. Late on, when Yankee pitching loosene... somewhat and the Dodgers reache... wer... tha... t th... face... of ol...

SchoolSPORTS

FOOTBALL
Result Yesterday
R.I. Training School 45, Attleboro J.V. 0
Game Today
R.I. Training School-St. Raphael J.V. at McCoy Stadium, 3:30 p.m.

CROSS-COUNTRY
Result Yesterday
Concord Freshmen-Sophomores 18, La Salle Freshmen 38.

A contemporary newspaper clipping (above) reinforces the opinion that Ted Lowry came extremely close to beating Marciano in their October 1949 fight in Providence, Rhode Island. Today, the 79-year-old Lowry trains aspiring young boxers such as Marlene Eicholz (below) in Norwalk, Connecticut.

Photo by Robert Mladinich

...pped in the 11th round of their September ... rematch. The latter was for Marciano's ... The first fight was an eagerly anticipat... matchup of undefeated prospects at ...dison Square Garden. LaStarza was 37-0 ..., while Marciano's record was 25-0 ... To this day, the bout is steeped in con...versy by those who remember it. ...rciano won by scores of 5-4-1, 5-5 (9-6 ...points), and 4-5-1. If Marciano had not ...cked the 22-year-old LaStarza down in ... fourth round, his undefeated record ...ht have ended then and there.

"As far as I'm concerned, I won the first ...t, but there's really no use talking about it ...," said the 72-year-old LaStarza, who ... resides in Port Orange, Florida. "Rocky ... a lot better fighter than he looked, but not ...good as I was. That might sound egotisti... but that's the way I feel."

LaStarza concedes that he lost the second ...t, which was held at the Polo Grounds ...ore more than 44,500 fans, but says he left ...st of his fight in the gym. In addition, he ... hampered by an arm injury that was exac...uted by Marciano's pulverizing power.

"My trainer [Dan Florio] ruined me, he ...led me in training camp," claimed ...Starza. "I would have liked to weigh 192-...3 pounds, but weighed 178 a few days ...ore the fight. But it was an easy fight for ... rounds. Then I blocked a punch with my ...rearm, and the pain was so terrible I ...uldn't move it anymore."

In his 1971 book, *Rocky: The Story Of A ...ampion*, author Bill Libby wrote: "Marciano's gloved fists broke blood vessels and bones in LaStarza's arms and elbows. First the arms grew heavy, then they began to ache awfully, then they grew numb. As the relentless battle wore on, LaStarza found it harder and harder to raise his arms, much less jab with them or punch with them. His hands lowered, his defense dissipated, Marciano began to punish him about the head. LaStarza began to take a terrible beating. Still, he fought on gamely.

"In the 11th round, Marciano drove a left hook and a right cross to LaStarza's head with devastating force. The brutal blows stunned the gallant youngster, who was driven down into the ropes. Desperately, he tried to rise, but then he sagged back, helpless. He simply could not move. He was beaten and it was over."

LaStarza says that both of his encounters with Marciano were the biggest disappointments of his career, mainly because they seemed to be so winnable. He considered himself a bigger one-punch puncher than the champion, but realizes that meant little when compared to somebody with Marciano's relentless determination.

"I would throw a hard punch, then he would throw a hard punch," he explained. "The difference was that Rocky would throw

Then-heavyweight champ Jersey Joe Walcott stands between Harry "Kid" Matthews (left) and Marciano prior to their 1952 bout in New York City. The winner was promised the next crack at Walcott's title.

10 more. He just never stopped throwing punches."

While LaStarza said he was hit much harder by obscure heavyweights Walter Hafer and Gene Gosney, both of whom he stopped, he is much too respectful of Marciano to minimize his abilities.

"Don't get me wrong," LaStarza said, "Rocky was a fantastic hitter, but nobody hit me harder than those guys. As an all-around fighter though, Marciano was the toughest of all."

LaStarza's road to success was far from conventional. The studious son of a Bronx vegetable grocer, he had enrolled in the City College of New York at 16 to study physical education. Upon turning pro in '47, his manager told him he could embark on his career in one of two ways. One option was aligning themselves with the neighborhood wiseguys, who would extract a five percent tax for "protection." LaStarza adamantly refused.

"I said no; I wanted to go on my own merit," he said. "I was so naive, I didn't know what they meant by protection, but with what I know now, maybe I would have said the heck with pride. And maybe I wouldn't have lost the [first] Marciano fight."

After leaving the game for good in '61 with a record of 56-8 (25), LaStarza had a fairly successful acting career that included a featured role in the '60s World War II television series *The Gallant Men*. He was also a licensed commercial pilot, but was grounded several years ago because of a heart condition that required surgery. He has been married for 41 years to his wife, Jane, and they are the parents of two children and grandparents to five. They live next door to their daughter Amy, while son Mark, who resides nearby, is a physician. Extremely intelligent, articulate, and engaging, LaStarza sounds more professorial than pugilistic. He jokes that Mark is the intellectual of the family.

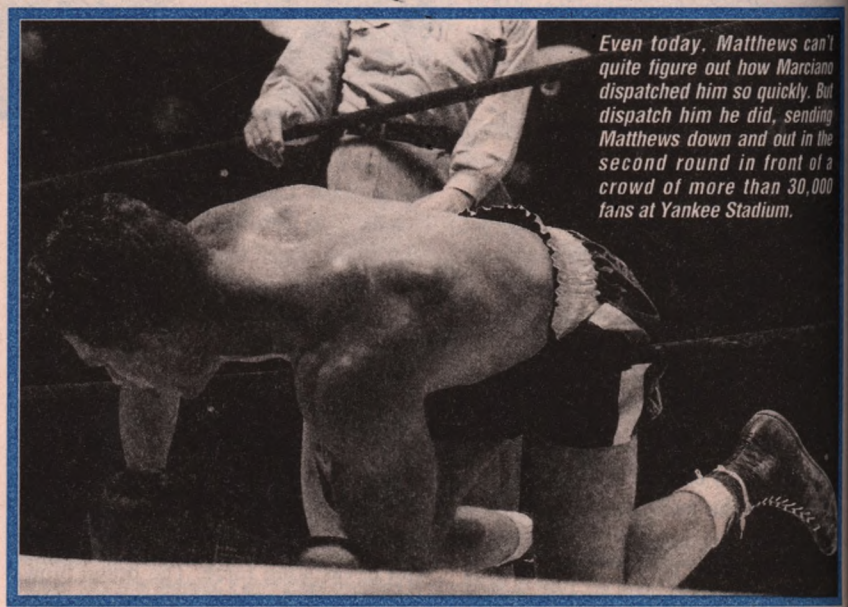
HARRY "KID" MATTHEWS:

The hard-punching Matthews, who campaigned throughout much of his career as a light heavyweight, still cannot fathom how Marciano took him out so early. The fight took place in front of 31,000 fans at Yankee Stadium in July '52. Matthews, who had turned pro at age 15, had come into the fight with an imposing 78-3-6 (57) record. He had been stopped only once, and had beaten Rex Layne by decision in his previous bout. There was a lot on the line for both fighters because the winner would be fighting Walcott for the title less than a month later. After Marciano landed several debilitating left hooks in the second round, Matthews had his fourth loss on his record and saw his heavyweight championship aspirations ground into the rosin dust.

"I just couldn't get out of the way, and ran into the wrong punch," said the 76-year-old Matthews, an Idaho native who now lives in the Seattle suburb of Everett, Washington. "I tried to take the loss in stride. Like all fighters, I didn't expect what happened to happen. It was a great disappointment to me, but Rocky deserved the title shot. He was a great puncher, one of the best of all-time. He just threw one punch after another, and all of them were hard. When he stopped me, he threw about five or six left hooks. He missed me with two, but hit me the rest. I remember landing one left hook in the first round. He told me afterward that I hurt him with that punch."

Matthews retired in '56 with a record of 87-9-7 (61), and worked for many years as a certified welder before starting an Everett general merchandise rental business called "Harry Matthews Rental Supply," which he ran for 14 years. Now widowed from his third wife, he has three children and spends his days either on the golf course or playing with his beloved Brittany Spaniel pooch, Sparky. ■

Robert Mladinich is a freelance writer based in New York City and a regular contributor to this magazine.



Even today, Matthews can't quite figure out how Marciano dispatched him so quickly. But dispatch him he did, sending Matthews down and out in the second round in front of a crowd of more than 30,000 fans at Yankee Stadium.

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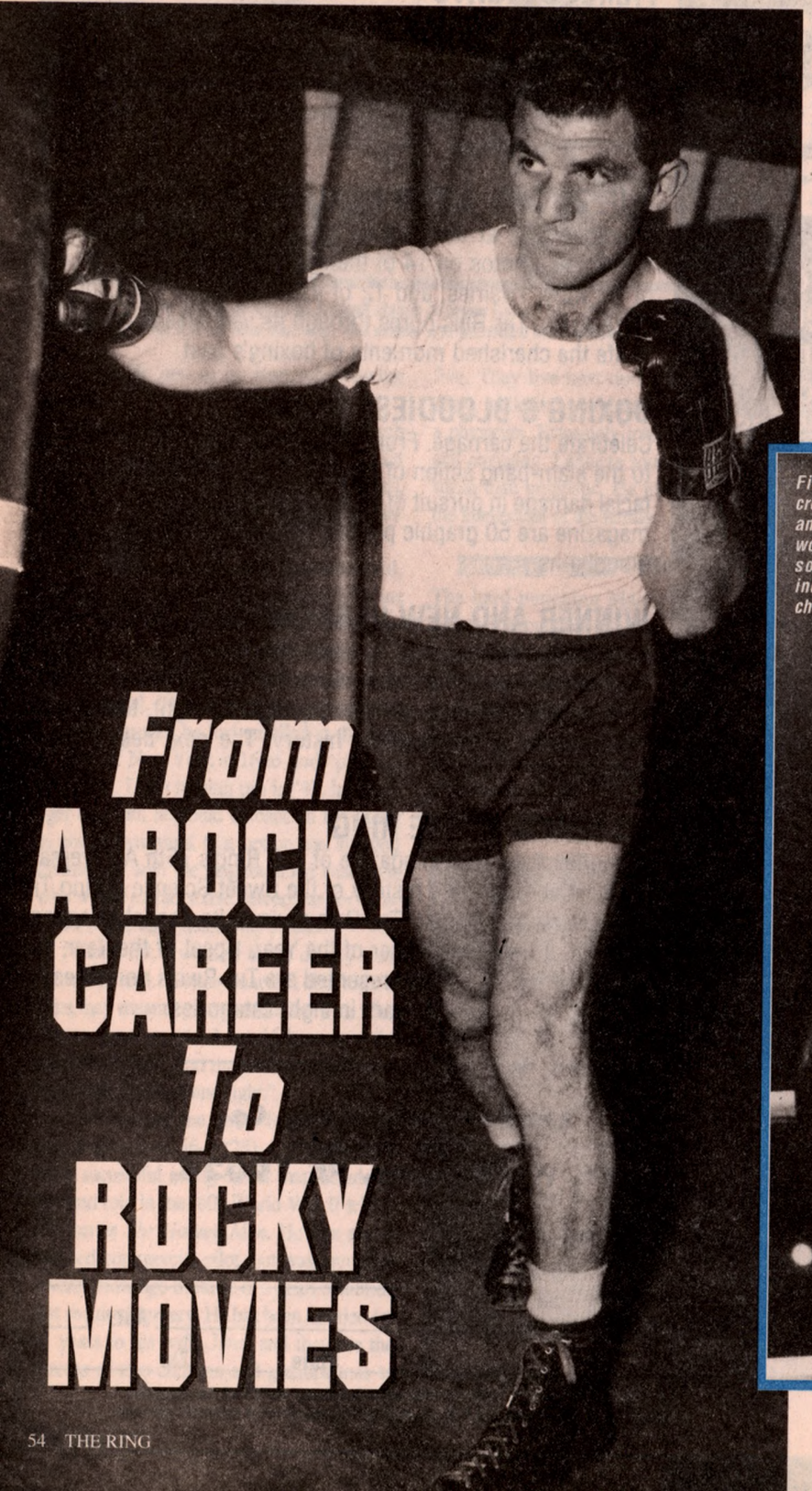
REFEREE LOU FILIPPO'S BLOOD & GUTS STORY



From A ROCKY CAREER To ROCKY MOVIES

By Pete Ehrmann

If life was like a *Rocky* movie, Lou Filippo might have become lightweight champion of the world—if he didn't bleed to death first.

As most thinking fight fans know, the five blockbuster epics starring Sylvester Stallone as the mumbling crash-test who became heavyweight champion of the world are to boxing what NASCAR racing is to driver's education. Every fight Rocky Balboa had (and will have apparently, since it was announced that *Rocky VI* is in the works) was more gut-wrenching, blood-soaked, and preposterously violent than a 14-year-old's favorite video game.

Poor Rocky—the only fighter who somehow got better looking as his career went on—wouldn't have gone the distance with Apollo Creed with a real referee in the ring, and nobody knows that better than Filippo, who is both a real referee and who played himself as the third man in the ring in all five *Rocky* movies.

"Oh, God," Filippo groaned, referring to the beating the script in *Rocky IV* called for him to let Creed (Carl Weathers) take from Ivan Drago (Dolph Lundgren), which resulted in Creed's death. "I was worried that the commission might see it and pull my license."

Currently the senior referee in the state of California, since the early-1970s Filippo has been third man in hundreds of fights, more than 85 of them for a world title of one stripe or another. He is recognized all over the world for his work in real fights and, of course, as Rocky's Arthur Donovan, as well as for appearances—usually as a referee—in other films, TV shows, and commercials.

More than 40 years ago, the 5'6" Filippo was himself a miniature Rocky Balboa in the ring, "a gamester who is never in a dull brawl," according to Bill Miller, THE RING's California correspondent. In 1957, he was named Action Fighter of the Year in Los Angeles. Unfortunately, bad breaks—most of them in Filippo's facial tissue—and referees more sensitive to the sight of blood than the kind he later played on the big screen kept the brawling 135-pounder from the big time.

"The fights I lost were due to eye cuts," said Filippo, now 74. "They used to say when the referee was giving instructions, I'd start to bleed."

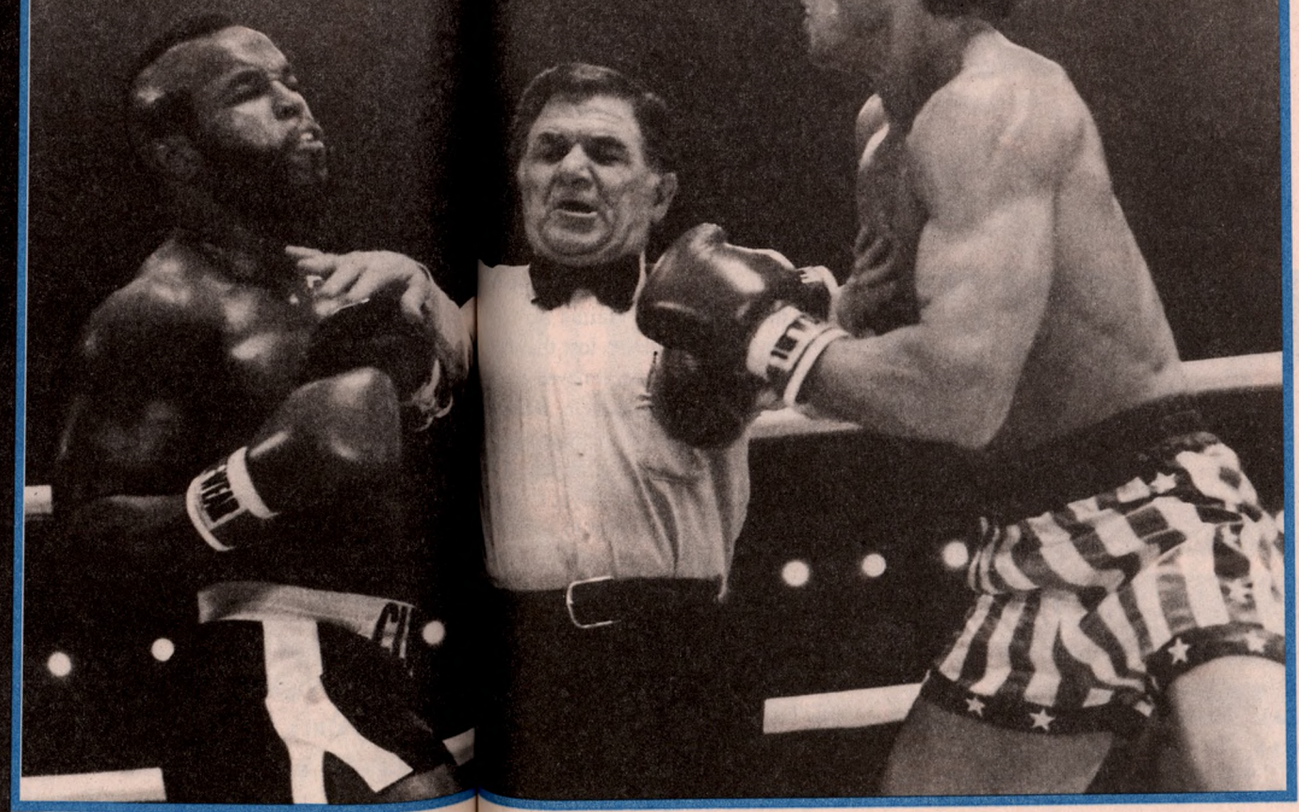
The funny thing is, as one of California's top amateurs in the '40s, fighting several times a week and winning the South Pacific All-Services 125-pound title in '44, the Los Angeles native never shed a drop of blood in more than 250 bouts. Then, four days before his first pro fight, against Mario Luna at the Ocean Park Arena on March 17, 1947, Filippo got cut in a sparring session. He went ahead with the fight and won a four-round decision, but after that, cuts were an albatross the rest of his career.

"I got a write-up from one sportswriter, who said, 'Lou Filippo is the only fighter I knew who won four straight, but lost two fights,'" Filippo said.

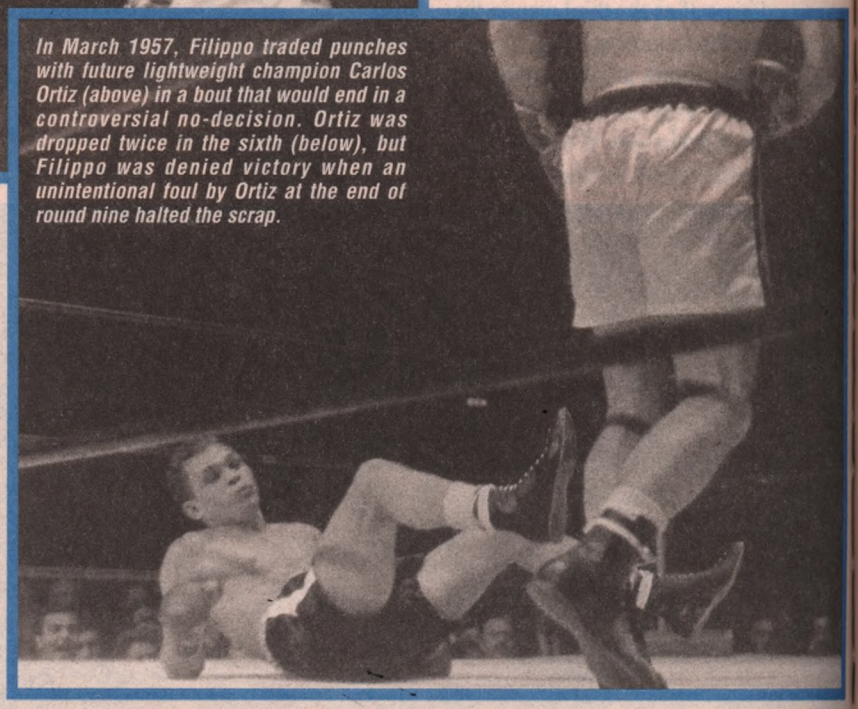
It happened against veteran Freddy "Babe" Herman, whom Filippo met twice in the late-'40s. He was beating Herman when the first match was stopped after the first round on account of Filippo's blood loss, and Filippo took all four rounds of their second bout before the referee raised Herman's hand and pointed Lou toward the emergency room again.

"I tried everything," said Filippo. "I got brine from the stockyards and soaked my face in it, and did everything else the old-timers used to do to toughen up their skin. Nothing worked."

Disgusted, Filippo quit the ring for three years. In 1954, he returned as a member of the stable of legendary manager-trainer Jackie McCoy, and in spite of his



Filippo first made a name for himself as a crowd-pleasing lightweight contender in the '40s and '50s (left), but is better known today for his work as a referee. He starred as the third man in some of the fights in the Rocky movies, including one of the battles between the title character and adversary Clubber Lang (right).



In March 1957, Filippo traded punches with future lightweight champion Carlos Ortiz (above) in a bout that would end in a controversial no-decision. Ortiz was dropped twice in the sixth (below), but Filippo was denied victory when an unintentional foul by Ortiz at the end of round nine halted the scrap.

recurrent blood-letting, Filippo started gaining ground. After beating Amando Martinez and Jimmy Florida in his first two comeback fights, Filippo overwhelmed Arizona lightweight champ Johnny Hart in his first 10-rounder at the Hollywood Legion Stadium.

"I probably fought 20, 24 times there," he said of the famous old fight palace, now long gone, whose $6.50 ringside seats were filled every week with Hollywood's biggest stars. "I fought on a percentage basis rather than a straight guarantee, because I used to sell a lot of tickets."

Art Ramponi was making a name for himself by starching a lot of guys in Southern California in the mid-'50s. One of his victims was Buddy Evans, a stablemate of Filippo's.

"Get him for me," Filippo told McCoy after Ramponi stopped Evans. A week later, the manager told him that he'd made the match—Filippo vs. Ramponi.

"I didn't want *him*," protested Filippo. "I wanted Evans! But I fought Ramponi, a 4-1 favorite, and I beat him."

He was beating Lauro Salas, too, in their September 22, 1956, fight, even though the former world lightweight champion had floored Filippo for the first time in the latter's career, in the third round.

Filippo was the ref in the second meeting between junior flyweight champions Chiquita Gonzalez and Michael Carbajal in '94. Gonzalez and Carbajal could both be described as bleeders, but neither approaches the cut-prone Filippo, whose eight losses were all the result of lacerations.

Going into the ninth round, Filippo was ahead on points, and claims now that "there's no way I could've lost that fight" on decision. Trouble was, it never got that far, thanks to his usual problem. Badly cut over both eyes, Filippo was excused for medical treatment in the ninth round (he took eight stitches over one eye, five over the other), and the fight went to Salas on a technical knockout. There was one consolation for the loser. The Southern California Boxing Writers Association voted Salas-Filippo the Fight of the Year.

Oddly enough, cuts weren't a factor in Filippo's biggest and most controversial fight, which took place on March 2, 1957. The man in the other corner was unbeaten in 20 professional fights, and in two more

rs would win the junior lightweight title
d, in '62, the 135-pound world title, on
way to the International Boxing Hall of
me.

"He was a young, strong fighter, only
years old," said Filippo of Carlos Ortiz.
was a 33-year-old man."

But in front of 5,000 fans at the Legion
dium, Filippo had Ortiz down twice in
sixth round from his favorite punch, an
erhand right, and seemed headed for a
ge upset win until there came a develop-
nt so bizarre that it's surprising Stallone
in't use it in his movies.

"The bell rang at the end of the ninth
nd, and I dropped my hands and turned
out halfway," Filippo recalled. "Ortiz hit
with a left hook to the solar plexus and
ocked the wind out of me."

Filippo went down, but because the
nch came after the bell, referee Dick
ung awarded him the fight on a foul.
e boxing commissioners, however, went
to a huddle and decided that it wasn't
ht for somebody to win on an uninten-
nal foul, and it wasn't until the next
rning that Filippo learned the bout had
en declared a no-contest.

They built up the rematch, held at the
gion Stadium on April 9, as a huge
dge match, although Filippo wasn't
gry about what had happened.

"I took it okay," he recalled. "[The late
nch] was unintentional. There's not a
tter guy than Carlos Ortiz."

The feeling is mutual.

Photo by Danny Valdivia

Filippo hangs out with Jerry Buss, the head of Forum Boxing, at a '97 fight card. Now 74, Filippo is still fairly active refereeing and judging fights, primarily in California.

"We've become, you know, pals, of sorts," said Ortiz, now 63. "He was one of those real tough fighters. He had no finesse, but was sort of like Rocky Graziano: He could take a good punch, and he could dish it out. When he went in the ring, he fought fair and square."

But what the former champion remembers most about the first Filippo fight isn't what happened inside the ring, but rather the crowd's reaction to it.

"They started throwing pennies and bottles and everything," said Ortiz. "It was terrible. It was a riot-and-a-half."

The rematch lacked the drama of the first fight on both sides of the ropes. Ortiz led all the way and stopped Filippo on cuts in the seventh round. It was Filippo's last bout. In 42 outings, he lost eight, all on cuts, had one draw, and incurred, by his estimate, about 40 stitches.

"I was never rated," Filippo said. "In those days there were only eight weight classes, with 10 fighters in each one. Today, I see some of these guys who are called champions, and my God. But that's ego speaking, I guess. One thing I'm proud of: I was never knocked out."

Filippo managed and trained a few fighters after that. "I trained Don Jordan for a couple of fights," he said, referring to the man who won the welterweight title in '58. It was in '73 when Aileen Eaton, promoter at the Olympic Auditorium, suggested that he give refereeing a try.

"It's a thankless job, but either you like it or you don't," he said. "You can be the best one day, and the next day be the worst. The most important thing, obviously, is the safety of the boxers. You can see a fighter being hurt, but he might be throwing punches back, and the hardest thing to do is stop the fight."

Also a longtime boxing judge, Filippo was beatified by many experts for his lone ballot in favor of Marvelous Marvin Hagler against Sugar Ray Leonard in the controversial 1987 middleweight title fight

(Continued on page 79)

Filippo, seen giving instructions to Apollo Creed and Rocky Balboa in the first Rocky movie, insists acting "isn't as glamorous as people think." California's senior referee prefers real officiating to doing it on the silver screen.

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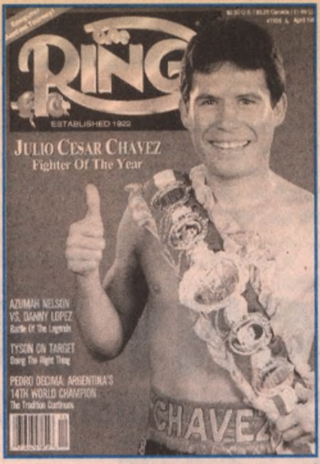

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NEW FACES

ANTHONY FARNELL

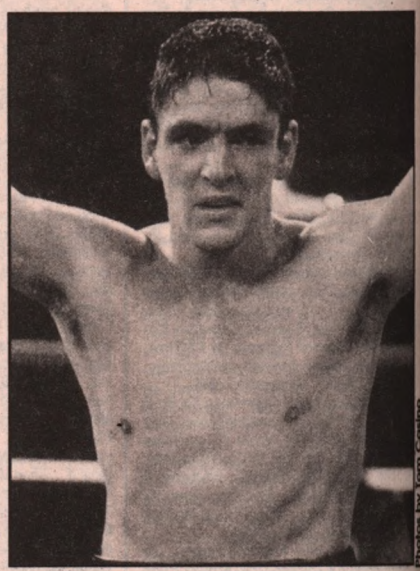
Junior Middleweight

By Joe Santoliquito

The only thing missing was the concrete canvas Anthony Farnell used to drop his opponents on during one of his impromptu bouts. Other than that, it was just like old times for Farnell. He was pumping his fists into someone's face, and attacking the body with booming shots to the ribs, just like he used to growing up on the streets of Manchester, England, surrounded by his best friends for support.

When Farnell, 17-0 (12), fought on the Frans Botha-Shannon Briggs undercard on August 7 in Atlantic City, he brought 40 loyal fans over from England with him. Farnell's faithful, a.k.a. "Arnie's Army," were hard to ignore. They waved red-and-white banners, chanted his name, jumped up and down around ringside, and cheered every punch he threw.

After the Manchester United Soccer Club, possibly the most recognized sports team in the world (sorry, New York Yankees and Chicago Bulls fans), "The Warrior" is the biggest sporting attraction in his hometown. His following has grown accustomed to his success over the years, but Farnell and his pals from the pub want recognition beyond Manchester, where Farnell can draw up to 1,000 locals to one of his fights.



Photos by Tom Casino

The 5'10" junior middleweight sports an aggressive style, the foundation of which stems from the stern streets of Manchester. That's where Brian Hughes first spotted Farnell in a brawl. What amazed Hughes was that this skinny kid, barely in his teens, was getting the better of a man Hughes estimated was in his early-20s.

"Anthony comes from what you would call a tough area, and he was only 13, and here he was fighting these grown men," recalled Hughes, who now trains Farnell. "I knew the schoolmaster at the school Anthony attended, and I went there to talk to him about Anthony. He thought Anthony

(Continued on page 79)

PRO RECORD

1997		
May 3	Lee Molyneux, Manchester, England	W 4
Aug. 2	Marty Renaghan, Barnsley, England	KO 3
Sept. 20	Dominique Vandersteene, Aachen, Germany	KO 1
Dec. 13	Paul Scott, Sheffield, England	KO 3
1998		
Jan. 24	Steve Brumant, Cardiff, Wales	W 6
March 21	Hughie Davey, London	W 6
April 18	Harry Butler, Manchester	W 6
May 9	Dave Thompson, Sheffield	KO 1
July 18	Lee Molyneux, Sheffield	KO 3
Sept. 5	Darren Williams, Telford, England	KO 4
Oct. 31	Mark Richardson, Atlantic City	W 6
Nov. 28	George Richards, Sheffield	KO 7
Dec. 19	Koba Kulu, Liverpool, England	KO 5
1999		
Feb. 27	Koba Kulu, Oldham, England	KO 1
May 1	Alan Gilbert, London	KO 8
May 29	John Long, Halifax, England	KO 6
Aug. 7	Israel Ponce, Atlantic City	KO 3

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KOs
17	17	0	0	12

Farnell attacks Israel Ponce en route to TKO victory

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CAMERA CLICKS

Photo by Wayne J. Nadolf

One of the more intimidating brides you'll ever come across, slugger Kathy Collins, shows off her guns at her August wedding. The once-beaten junior welterweight was well prepared for the ceremony, having already spent her share of time around rings and bells.

Photo courtesy of All Star Cafe

At least someone in the Briggs family knows how to get the job done! That's Shannon's two-year-old son, Chan, blasting Frans Botha with a right hand a few days before his dad fought "The White Buffalo" to a draw.

Photo by Frank Vitucci

IBF junior bantamweight champ Mark Johnson says he wants to move up in weight, and his pals at Cedric Kushner Productions did their part to help him along by presenting "Too Sharp" with a fattening birthday cake after his win over Jorge Lacierva. Pictured celebrating Johnson's 28th are, from left, publicist Greg Juckett, matchmaker Eric Bottjer, Ham Johnson (Too Sharp's father/trainer), and Kushner.

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Michael Grant has excelled at baseball, football, basketball, and, of course, boxing, but he found golf a little frustrating. So, the heavyweight contender tapped his ball in the only way he could be sure would work: with a mean right hand.

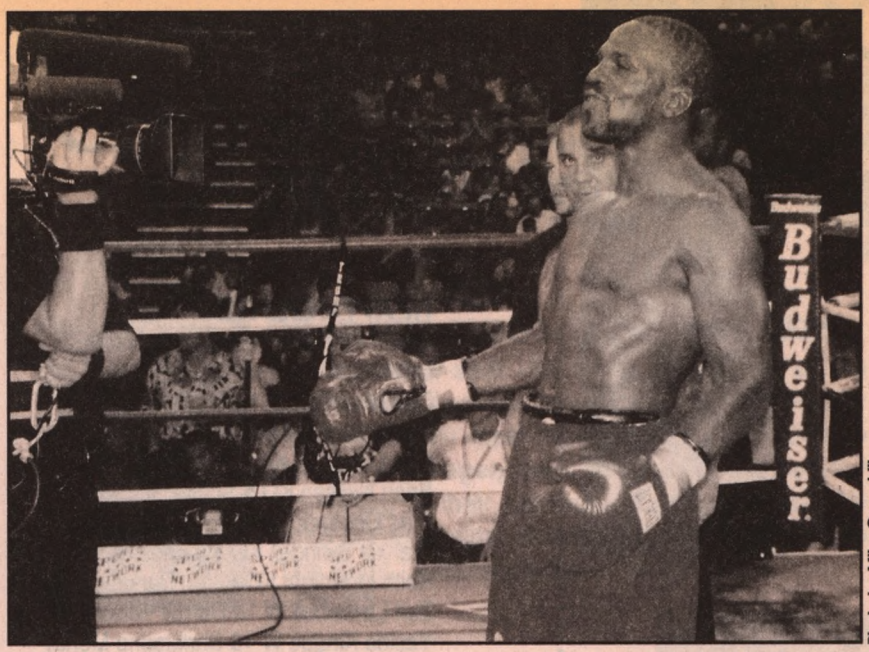

Photo by Mike Greenhill

In his fight with Omar Sheika, veteran Kevin Pompey was deemed unfit to continue in the eighth round by referee Tony Orlando, but he's obviously fit enough to continue pleading his case to the television camera. The stoppage was roundly booed by the fans in attendance, while Pompey was applauded for his game effort.

Photo by Wayne L. Nodlof

You've heard of the "Ickey Shuffle" and "Dirty Bird" victory dances; well here's Ronique Posey's unique celebratory trot, performed after he scored a knockout of George Best in his pro debut in August. We'll call Ronique's dance "The Hokey Posey."

NOSTALGIA CORNER

Here's photographic evidence that as early as 1963, Sonny Liston was all washed up. Then-heavyweight champ Liston got his body cleaned in a Copenhagen, Denmark, bath house just six months before he got his clock cleaned by Muhammad Ali in Miami, Florida.

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

"What's a matter? Got wax in your ears?" That's magician Lance Burton trying unsuccessfully to make the ear of Evander Holyfield reappear on this wax version of the heavyweight champ at the Monte Carlo Resort & Casino in Las Vegas.

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Mount Whitaker W 12 Monte Barrett
David Izon W 8 Garing Lane
Derrick Jefferson KO 4 Melvin Foster
Lawrence Clay-Bey W 8 Dale Crowe
Obed Sullivan KO 4 Everett Martin
Brian Nielsen KO 5 Shane Sutcliffe
Fres Oquendo W 10 Phil Jackson
Frankie Swindell KO 5 James Stanton
Keith McKnight KO 6 Iran Barkley
Zuri Lawrence W 10 Darroll Wilson
Yacine Kingbo W 10 Christophe Mendy
Tony LaRosa W 8 Trevor Berbick
David Bostice KO 2 Donny Hellyer
Jacob Mofokeng KO 11 Isaac Mahlangu
Kim Weber KO 2 Exum Speight
Willi Fischer KO 5 Alexei Osokin
Gary Wilcox W 8 Craig Salamone
Faruq Saleem KO 5 Ron McCarthy
Sean Carrigan KO 1 Mario Hereford
Robert Wiggins W 4 Cisse Salif

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Johnny Nelson KO 4 Willard Lewis
Marcelo Dominguez KO 3 Ignacio Monzon
Jorge Castro W 10 Marco Duarte
Napoleon Tagoe KO 3 Dennis McKinney
Alex Gonzalez W 8 Alonzo Wright

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Dariusz Michalczewski KO 4 Montell Griffin
Derrick Harmon W 8 Earl Butler
Fred Moore KO 4 Ken Bowman
Billy Lewis KO 2 Louis Llovet

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Sven Ottke Tech. Win 10 Thomas Tate
(Retains IBF Title)
Lonnie Bradley KO 6 Robert Muhammad
Kabary Salem KO 10 Randie Carver
Glen Johnson KO 4 Agustin Renteria
Mike Carrigan KO 3 Nathan Russell

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Bronco McKart W 10 Jason Papillion
Tony Ayala Jr. KO 3 Manuel Esparza
Johnson Tshuma KO 10 Giovanni Pretorius
James Coker KO 8 Lalo Gutierrez
Cleveland Corder W 12 Rob Bleakley
Andrew Council KO 2 Floyd Williams
Adrian Dodson W 8 Lorant Szabo

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
David Reid W 12 Keith Mullings
(Retains WBA Title)
Francisco Castillejo KO 7 Paolo Roberto
(Retains WBC Title)
Anthony Jones KO 9 Rene Herrera
Ensley Bingham KO 9 Delroy Leslie
Floyd Weaver KO 1 Darrell Woods
Shibata Flores KO 4 Pedro Ortega
Robert Frazier D 10 Robert West
Mikael Rask W 12 Ahmet Dottouev
Tony Badea KO 6 Mario Lesperance
Lavell Finger W 8 Benjamin Klingenstein
John Molnar KO 2 Rick Edson

WELTERWEIGHTS
Vernon Forrest KO 7 Santiago Samaniego
Giovanni Parisi KO 1 Jose Luis Baltazar
Phillip Holiday KO 4 Stephen Carr
Hector Camacho Jr. KO 1 Simon Gonzalez
Michele Piccirillo KO 2
Felix Victor Vasconcel
Larry Marks W 10 Brandon Mitchum
Felix Flores KO 5 Servando Parales

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Kostya Tszyu KO 10
Miguel Angel Gonzalez
(Wins Vacant WBC Title)
Arturo Gatti KO 1 Reyes Munoz
John Brown W 10 Francisco Cruz
James Leija W 10 Verdell Smith
Hector Quiroz KO 9 Mauro Lucero
Ahmed Santos KO 5 Cihat Salman
Jongkil Kim KO 7 Hisao Arai
Moses James KO 7 Javier Carmona
Teddy Reid KO 1 Jose Aponte
Juan Lazcano KO 4 Ernesto Martinez
Vivian Harris KO 5 Isander Lacen
Lucia Rijker KO 3 Diane Dutra

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Steve Johnston W 12 Angel Manfredy
(Retains WBC Title)
Paul Spadafora W 12 Israel Cardona
(Wins Vacant IBF Title)
Ivan Robinson W 12 James Crayton
Derrick Gainer KO 1 Jay Cantu
Joel Casamayor KO 2 Enrique Valenzuela
Billy Irwin KO 3 Damion LaPrairie
Lovemore Ndou W 10 Downmai Sithkodom
Lemuel Nelson W 12 Bernard Harris
Harold Warren W 8 Troy Crain
Ed Hopson W 8 Luis Lizarraga
Alberto Sicurella W 12 Walter Rodriguez
Juan Gomez Trinidad KO 5 Antonio Salas

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Floyd Mayweather KO 7 Carlos Gerena
(Retains WBC Title)

Jesus Chavez KO 3 Armando Bosques
Derrick Gainer KO 2 Javier Lucas
Carlos Rios W 10 Wilson Palacios
Victor Hugo Paz KO 8 Claudio Martinet
Daniel Seda W 10 Reggie Sanders
Sergio Liendo KO 6 Alberto Roda
Esham Pickering KO 2 Chris Lyons

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Freddie Norwood W 12
Juan Manuel Marquez
(Retains WBA Title)
Wayne McCullough W 10 Len Martinez
Julio Pablo Chacon KO 10 Oscar Leon
Benito Rodriguez W 10 Kevin Kelley
Victor Polo W 10 Roque Cassiani
Agapito Sanchez W 10 Marcos Badillo
Istvan Kovacs W 8 Kimoun Kouassi
Juan Gerardo Cabrera KO 5 Sergio Ledesma
Max Gomez W 12 Jorge Reyes
Haruhiko Okuda KO 2 Noel Hammer Pan
Emanuel Lucero KO 4 Marty Robbins

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Kennedy McKinney W 10 Mario Diaz
Jorge Eliecer Julio KO 3 Miguel Martinez

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Veerapol Sahaprom KO 7 Joichiro Tatsuyoshi
(Retains WBC Title)
Adan Vargas KO 4 Rodolfo Blanco
Danny Romero KO 6 Leonardo Gutierrez
Rafael Marquez KO 4 Adrian Ochoa
Roberto Moreno W 10 Felix Marfa

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Mark Johnson Tech. Win 8 Jorge Lacierva
(Retains IBF Title)
In Joo Cho W 12 Keiji Yamaguchi
(Retains WBC Title)
Alex Baba KO 4 Antonio Ruiz
Samson 3K Battery KO 4
Simphiwe Xabendini
Omar Adorno KO 4 Mauro Diaz

FLYWEIGHTS

Sompichai Kratchingdaeng KO 8 Leo Gamez
(Wins WBA Title)
Pedro Pena Tech. Win 5 Mariano Gonzalez
Alejandro Montiel KO 10 Edgar Cardenas
Randy Mangubat KO 6 Eddie Felisilda
Mike Trejo KO 2 Adrian Puga

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Melchor Cob Castro W 12 Osvaldo Guerrero
Chana Porpaoin W 10 Keisuke Yokoyama
Hawk Makepula KO 1 Jose Laureano

STRAWWEIGHTS

Jose Antonio Aguirre KO 6 Rafael Orozco
Masanori Suga W 10 Jun Arlos

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RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

There was no shortage of worthy candidates for this month's honor, with Kostya Tszyu destroying Miguel Angel Gonzalez, Paul Spadafora humbling Israel Cardona, and Michael Carbajal dramatically upsetting Jorge Arce. But because he was similarly spellbinding against a higher caliber of opposition, WBC lightweight champ Johnston, who boxed magnificently against Angel Manfredy, edges out the other hopefuls to be named the Fighter of the Month for the second time in his career.

Proving too quick, elusive, and well-schooled, the diminutive Johnston once again showed that you don't need size or a big punch to be a great fighter. Using an arsenal made up mostly of southpaw jabs and straight left hands, he won at least eight of 12 rounds against an opponent many believed was poised to become the number-one man in the 135-pound class. Manfredy, just 24 years old, may still fulfill those expectations one day. But for now, the mantle belongs to Johnston, as "Li'l But Bad" was a li'l too good.

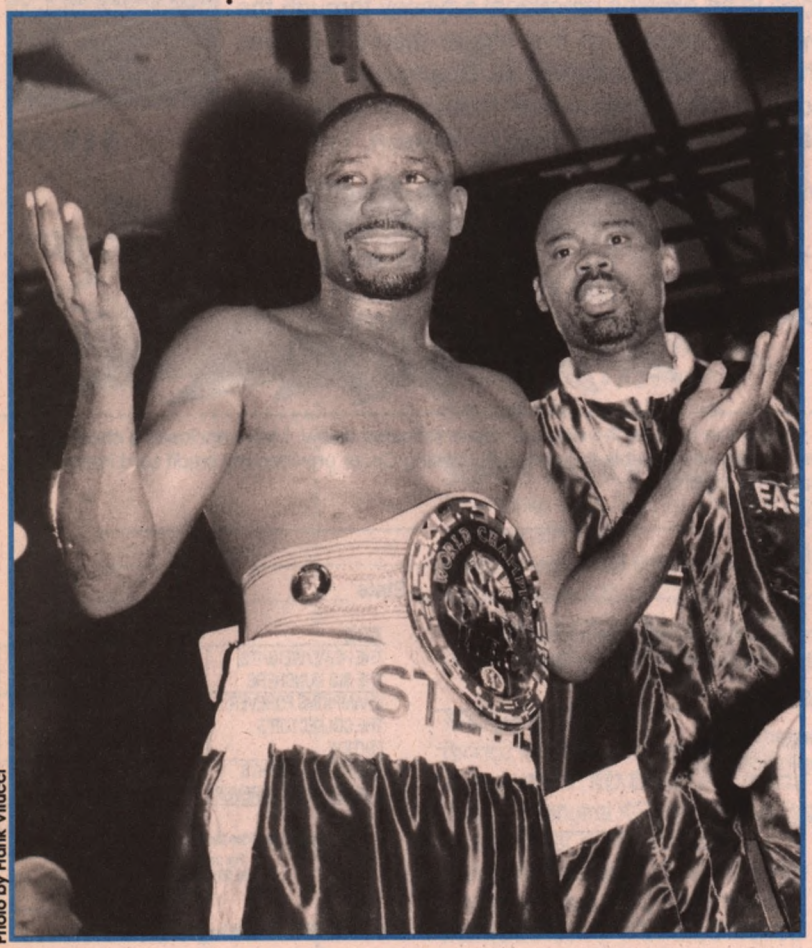
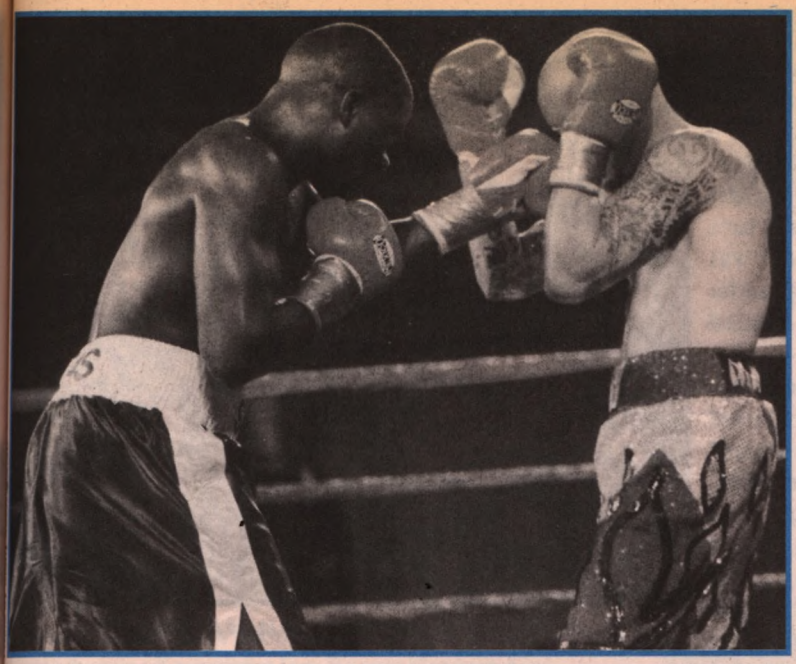


Photo by Frank Vilucci

• • • •

Stevie Johnston



Johnston splits Manfredy's guard with a straight left

Stevie Johnston W 12 Angel Manfredy

Ledyard, Connecticut: Johnston didn't merely tally his second successful defense of his second reign as WBC lightweight champion when he thoroughly befuddled and battered Manfredy at the Foxwoods Resort Casino. He also captured the unofficial title of "world's best lightweight," vacated several months earlier by Shane Mosley, by emerging victorious in this battle of the top two fighters in the 135-pound class.

Manfredy, 135, Hobart, Indiana, banged two hard lefts to Johnston's ribcage at the start, attempting to institute the same bruising body attack that led him to victory four months earlier against Ivan Robinson. But southpaw Johnston, 135, Denver, Colorado, one of the finest pure boxers in the game today, quickly assumed control by establishing his stiff, almost unavoidable right jab. The champion's ability to score with the jab was soon paving the way for lead lefts and quick one-twos, and he was constantly getting off first.

Johnston knocked "El Diablo" off-balance with a left hook to the jaw late in round two, but Manfredy picked up the pace at the start of the third, putting together several impressive combinations. Johnston, unfazed, retaliated with combinations of his own and began stalking the challenger around the ring, leaving Manfredy, an 8-5 betting favorite, with a deflated look on his face when the bell rang to signal the end of the third.

Manfredy, 24, began to creep back into the fight when Johnston's right eye started swelling and then bleeding a bit in the fourth, but "Li'l But Bad" remained elusive—and astonishingly effective at picking Manfredy apart when the challenger had him pinned against the ropes. Johnston, 26, exploded with a beautiful four-punch combination off the ropes in the sixth, and seemed to be pulling away until Manfredy stepped up his body attack in the seventh and eighth, slowing the champ down temporarily.

But from the ninth round on, when Johnston began bouncing and looking like he'd gotten his second wind, the fight was almost completely one-sided. The 5'5" champ landed a lunging left followed by a short counter right in the 10th, and the crowd came alive when he finished the round with yet another rapid-fire flurry with his back to the ropes.

Never giving up, Manfredy, 28-4-1 (22), tried a brief switch to a southpaw stance in the 11th, and scored with a booming right to the ribs. But Johnston absorbed it, continued to confidently outbox his man, and put an exclamation point on his dominance with a perfectly executed mini bolo punch midway through the round. A tremendous left to the jaw by Johnston capped an exciting exchange late in the 11th, and the champion moved and potshotted his way through a close final round to secure the victory.

There was no disputing the outcome—though Manfredy's ego made him half-heartedly insist afterward that he thought he won close. Judges Tom Kaczmarek (USA) and Terry Smith (USA) both had it 116-112 for Johnston, while Bob Logist (Belgium) scored it 118-111, the same as THE RING. Johnston, who threw an impressive 1,007 punches according to CompuBox statistics, said he raised his game because of Manfredy's prefight predictions of a fifth-round knockout.

"At the press conference, he was talking stuff, and I hate people that talk stuff," said Johnston, 28-1 (14). "There's always a motivation when someone's running their mouth to me. I think it's a sport, and I don't think you need to badmouth. When he started talking stuff, I knew I had it in the bag."

A mandatory defense against England's Billy Schwer is next for Johnston, though the date depends on how quickly the cut over his right eye heals.

Referee: Frank Cappuccino (USA)
Television: HBO
Promoter: Cedric Kushner Productions
(8-14-99)
Eric Raskin

Kostya Tszyu KO 10 Miguel Angel Gonzalez

Miami, Florida: After more than two years of postponements caused by injuries and promotional politics, the WBC super lightweight title is vacant no more, thanks to an awesome display of power punching by Tszyu. The pig-tailed Australian completely outclassed Gonzalez to win the belt via TKO, 48 seconds into the 10th round of a scheduled 12-rounder at Miccosukee Indian Gaming.

What had figured to be a close contest quickly turned into a rout, starting in the second round when Tszyu rocked Gonzalez with the first of numerous rights to the head. From that point onward, Tszyu marched forward unloading neck-snapping straight lefts, invariably followed by crushing rights. The only suspense was whether or not Gonzalez, 140, would be disqualified before Tszyu, 140, stopped him. One of Gonzalez' early headbutts resulted in a gash over his own left

eye in the opening round, and although the wound never became a significant factor, it certainly added to his misery.

Gonzalez, 28, began the bout with a low blow, and soon graduated to intentional headbutts, rabbit punches, and frequent illegal use of the shoulders. He was docked a point by referee Frank Santore (USA) for slamming his shoulder into his opponent's face in the fourth, and could easily have been DQ'd for repeated offenses. After the bout was stopped, Gonzalez, normally a clean fighter, apologized for losing his head. Actually, he was lucky it was still attached to his neck after Tszyu was finished with him.

Besides the fouls, the 29-year-old Tszyu had things pretty much all his own way. He brushed aside or ignored Gonzalez' few legal offerings and repeatedly slammed powershots into the Mexican's head. The former WBC lightweight champ showed an abundance of courage and a very durable chin, but probably should have been rescued after being on the wrong end of a brutal beating in the eight. He absorbed another frightful pounding in the ninth, and when the massacre continued in the 10th, Abel Sanchez, Gonzalez' trainer, jumped onto the ring apron, prompting Santore to call an overdue halt.

Gonzalez, who hadn't fought in 405 days, saw his record dip to 43-2-1 (33). His only other defeat had come on points to Oscar De La Hoya, which gave even more credence to Tszyu's dominant performance. Next, promoter Don King hopes to match Tszyu, 23-1-1 (19), with Julio Cesar Chavez, with whom Gonzalez had drawn in a previous effort to fill the vacancy.

Television: Showtime

(8-21-98)

Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

Tszyu sports the legit WBC belt and the bogus "interim" strap

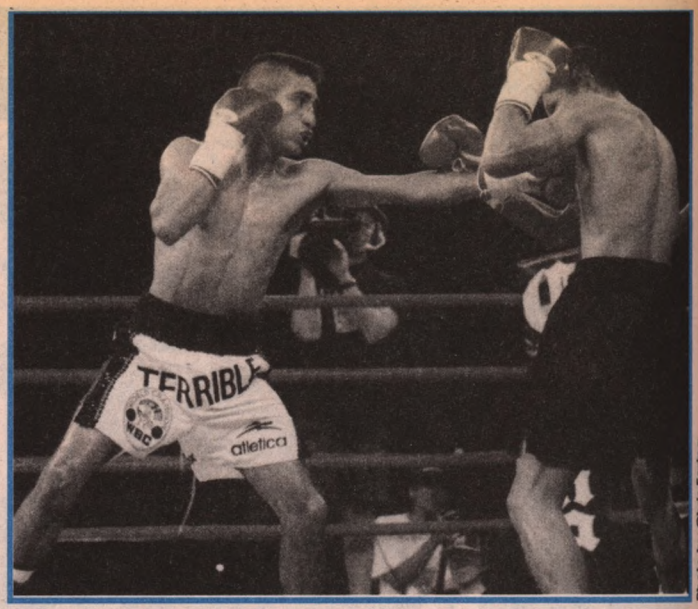


Photo by Chris Farina

Mexican hero Morales stuffs a jab in the face of Jamili

Erik Morales KO 6 Reynante Jamili

Tijuana, Mexico: For the second time in his title reign, "El Terrible" Morales took his show to the bullring of his native Tijuana and gave the fans what they came to see, a spectacular knockout over a good opponent and one more reason to make them believe that their pride and joy is becoming a bright star in the boxing galaxy. Morales, 22, retained the WBC super bantamweight title with a sixth-round TKO over Jamili, 27, before approximately 12,000 people in El Toreo de Tijuana. Almost 10 months after crushing Junior Jones in the same ring, Morales dismantled the number-one ranked contender with a thunderous right hand that sent the Filipino back to his homeland with the knowledge that he had been beaten by one of the finest champions in the world today.

It took Morales, 122, a couple of rounds to find his punching range and figure out Jamili, who was very game from the start and showed some guts by taking the fight to the Mexican. But after winning the first three rounds with his boxing skills, Morales finally found his man in the fourth and started to dominate the fight with his accurate body punching and hard rights to the head of Jamili, 121½.

By the fifth round, Morales was in total control of the fight, and all it took to finish the job was one powerful overhand right that caught Jamili square in the face and sent him to the canvas toward the end of the sixth round. Jamili got up, but after giving the challenger the count of eight, referee Marty Denkin (USA) decided that the Filipino was too hurt to continue and stopped the contest at 3:02 of the sixth, as the bell to finalize the round was never heard over the roaring of the crowd.

"I tried walking him after the count, but he didn't seem to have his legs under him, and that made me decide to stop the fight right there and then," said the veteran official.

It was quite a demonstration of one-punch power by Morales, and it is becoming obvious that he is getting stronger as he matures and learns his craft.

"I had trouble finding my range in the early going, but once I found it, I knew it was just a matter of time to the knockout and the win," said Morales, 34-0 (28), after completing his seventh title defense.

Morales was ahead on the scorecards of Tom Kaczmarek (USA) and Tony Castellano (USA) by a 49-46 margin, and Chuck Hassett (USA) had him up 50-45 after five rounds.

"He's a good young fighter," said Jamili, 39-5 (30). "He's very strong, and quicker than he looks."

Morales' promoter, Bob Arum, said afterward that an all-Mexico showdown against Marco Antonio Barrera had a good chance of coming off in the near future. It has the potential to be Morales' toughest test to date, but first, Morales was scheduled to fight heavy underdog Wayne McCullough in October.

Television: SET

Promoters: Top Rank and Zanfer Promotions

(7-31-99)

Ricardo Jimenez

Stefano Zoff W 12 Julien Lorcy

Cannes, France: Italian veteran Zoff, 134, pulled off a mild shock when he boxed aggressively and effectively to snatch the WBA lightweight title from French holder Lorcy, 134½, on a split points decision at the Palais des Sports. It was Lorcy's first defense after claiming the title off compatriot Jean-Baptiste Mendy in April.

After being subjected to fairly severe pressure in the opening two rounds, Zoff, 33, controlled the fight almost throughout, though the Frenchman proved a difficult and game opponent. Zoff's longer reach was utilized to maximum effect, and he accumulated points relentlessly, constantly taking the fight to Lorcy. The defending-champion found him difficult to combat, and, though the judging proved eccentric, there was little doubt as to who had won when the final bell rang.

Lorcy, 27, gave no hint of the upset to come when he moved out from the outset with seemingly malevolent intent. Zoff, 29-6-2 (11), was obliged to try to cover up and offered little in retaliation apart from a solid right near the end of round two. But by the third, the momentum had swung—irrevocably as it turned out. Zoff, emphasizing his physical advantages, kept the Frenchman at bay with stiff jabs and hard straight rights. Repeatedly he drove Lorcy into his own corner. Under pressure, Lorcy retreated into a shell, and as the rounds went by, it was clear he was falling too far behind.

The Italian, a professional since 1989, began to tire by the 10th round, as much due to his own prodigious workrate as to any blows thrown by Lorcy, 41-2-2 (29). British referee John Coyle called on the ringside doctor to inspect a cut under the champion's left eyelid that had begun to leak ominously after being opened a few rounds previously. He was allowed to continue and bravely launched a final-round assault as he battled to cling on to his crown. Lorcy landed solid combinations, but Zoff, convinced he had done enough, refused to wilt. Before the round was out, he had reestablished his superiority.

Nonetheless, Venezuelan judge Antonio Requena somehow scored for Lorcy by 117-114. Panama's Arturo Sanchez and Japan's Masakazu Ushida were more realistic, with respective scores of 117-114 and 116-113 for Zoff. THE RING also scored for Zoff by 116-113. He must now make his first defense against mandatory challenger Gilberto Serrano of Venezuela.

Promoter: AB Stars Production

(8-7-99)

Brian Doogan

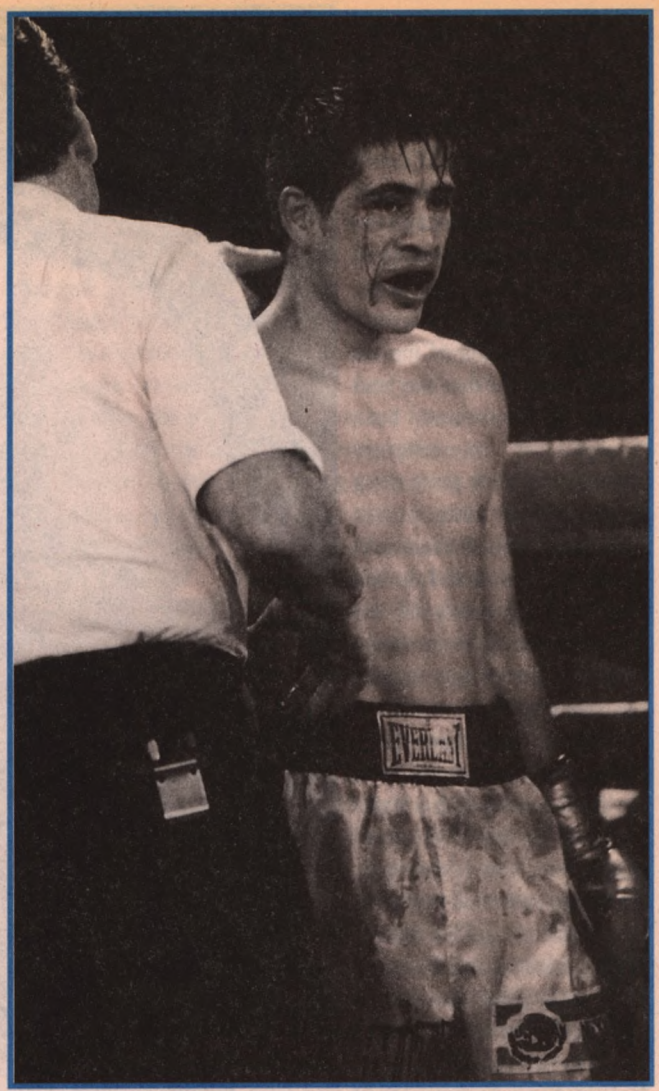


Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Ref Smoger moves in for a close look at blood-soaked Lacierva

Mark Johnson Tech. Win 8 Jorge Lacierva

Ledyard, Connecticut: While IBF junior bantamweight champion "Too Sharp" Johnson celebrated his 28th birthday on fight night, unheralded Mexican challenger Lacierva gave boxing fans a gift they had been waiting some time for: legitimate competition for Johnson. A dominant force throughout his 2½-year reign as IBF flyweight champ, Johnson was anything but dominant in his first defense of the 115-pound title, struggling through the first few rounds before pulling away and capturing a unanimous eight-round technical decision at the Foxwoods Resort Casino.

After an uneventful first round, the 25-year-old Lacierva, 114½, made his presence felt in the second by landing more solid punches in the stanza than most Johnson opponents do in an entire fight. Lacierva's switch to southpaw at the outset of the round didn't bother the champion, but when the Mexican switched back to an orthodox stance, he promptly landed a flush right hand to the face, followed by several rights to the stomach. With Lacierva dictating the pace and looking comfortable, Johnson, 115, continued to have difficulty finding the range in the third. Lacierva was starting and finishing most of the exchanges, and a

right uppercut late in the round landed beautifully on Johnson's chin.

The fight turned unmistakably in the fourth, however, when an accidental clash of heads left Lacierva with a gash about an inch long over his right eye. Ringside doctor Joseph Carpentieri examined the cut and determined that the bout could go on, and both competitors immediately opened up with a sizzling exchange of wide power punches. The difference, however, was that Johnson was landing many of his blows, especially to the body, while Lacierva was mostly just catching air.

Johnson, Washington, D.C., really settled into a groove in the fifth, scoring with a right-to-the-body-left-to-the-head combination early in the round. Too Sharp continued to pour on the bodyshots, and his defense also improved markedly as the fight progressed, though that may have been a consequence of Lacierva's impaired vision. Referee Steve Smoger (USA) again called for the doctor to take a look at the cut in the seventh, but Lacierva insisted he wanted to fight on, and was given the opportunity—and a damaging left cross from Johnson. But just when Johnson seemed to be piling up a comfortable lead, he got himself in a bit of trouble when he took to showboating late in the eighth. Lacierva, 14-3-3 (10), caught Johnson with a flurry during a lapse in the champ's concentration, sending his upper body through the ropes for what could have been (but was not) scored a knockdown.

Spadafora earned the IBF lightweight title by shutting down Cardona

By the ninth round, Lacierva's right eyelid was badly swollen, and Smoger stepped in at the 2:07 mark, halting the fight. The fight went to the cards, and through eight completed rounds, all three American officials had Johnson on top. Clark Sammartino saw it 77-75, while Don O'Neil and William Hutt both had it a surprisingly lopsided 79-73. THE RING had Johnson ahead by just a 77-76 margin.

"I was disappointed that I couldn't make a better showing," Johnson, 38-1 (26), said afterward. "But he was a very good fighter. He was not your typical Mexican fighter. He was very crafty, he knew how to slip and move. Both of us tried to seize the momentum [after the clash of heads] because we knew they were going to stop it, and I was able to step it up."

Johnson called out the likes of Erik Morales, Marco Antonio Barrera, Tim Austin, Johnny Tapia, and Naseem Hamed afterward, saying he was having some difficulty making 115 pounds and would like to move up if he can secure a big-money fight. But if none of those fights can be arranged, a rematch with the game Lacierva seems like a reasonably attractive option.

Television: ESPN2

Promoter: Cedric Kushner Productions

(8-13-99)

Eric Raskin

Paul Spadafora W 12 Israel Cardona

Chester, West Virginia: Although he was listed as a 3-1 underdog, Spadafora had just about every advantage going into his clash with Cardona for the vacant IBF lightweight title. "The Pittsburgh Kid" had far superior skills, hand speed, and ring generalship, the wholehearted support of a boisterous crowd, and, perhaps most importantly, a foolishly overconfident opponent. Cardona's only real edge was in punching power, and even that turned out to be a disadvantage because he had himself convinced his first big punch would knock the unproven Spadafora out. Unfortunately for the favorite, that big punch never came, and, as Spadafora racked up round after round en route to a unanimous decision, it slowly became clear that Cardona had no back-up plan in place.

Spadafora, a 23-year-old southpaw from nearby Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, whipped the crowd at the Mountaineer Race Track & Gaming Resort into a frenzy in the opening round with a pair of dazzling four-punch combinations. Spadafora's favorite defensive technique, spinning his opponent around with his right hand while stepping to the right, was made obsolete in the second round when referee Dave Johnson (USA) admonished him for using that maneuver, but he still proved nearly unhittable whether he was standing right in front of the 24-year-old Cardona or darting in and out with jabs and flurries.

Cardona, 132½, Hartford, Connecticut, was so busy defending himself that he rarely had any opportunities to get his own punches off, though he did pick up the pace after eating two hard lead lefts midway through the fourth. He came alive with several bodyshots that backed Spadafora up, but his assault was brief, and he soon resigned himself once more to playing the role of perpetually flat-footed receiver. Spadafora, 135, thought he'd scored a knockdown in the 10th, but Johnson correctly ruled it a slip, and "Pito" came back to enjoy one of his best moments when he caused Spadafora's legs to

traighten with a hook at the end of the round.

Cardona, 31-3 (23), came out for the 11th well aware that he eeded a knockout to win, but after putting the pressure on for the irst minute, he was battered with soft but accurate punches for the emainder of the round. Spadafora arguably gave away the 12th hen he literally ran away at times, but it didn't even come close o mattering. Judge Joe Dwyer (USA) had it 119-109, Gary Wolfe USA) scored it 119-108, and Dave Hess (USA) saw it 120-108, all or Spadafora, 27-0 (13). THE RING also had it a shutout, 120-108.

"I knew I could box this kid's ears off," the new champion said fterward. "I trained all my life for this. Cardona can punch. But elieve me, I can take a punch. I don't think there are too many ightweights in the world who can beat me."

Television: ESPN2

Promoter: Mike Acri

(8-20-99)

Barrera had a frustrating night swinging away at Maurin

Marco Antonio Barrera W 12 Pastor Maurin

Atlantic City, New Jersey: When his bout with Maurin was finally over, Barrera pretty much summed up the feeling of the 5,150 fans on hand at the Mark G. Etess Arena when he said, "I am totally disgusted." And although Barrera emerged victorious via unanimous 12-round decision, he did little to dispel the notion that he's never been quite the same fighter since back-to-back losses to Junior Jones. True, Maurin is an awkward spoiler with a decidedly negative style, but Barrera's attack was lukewarm at best, lacking the intensity and strength-sapping body attack that had pundits calling him the "new Chavez" just a few years ago.

It was obvious from the opening bell that Maurin, 122, Salta, Argentina, had absolutely no intention of mixing it up with his hard-hitting adversary. He circled away from Barrera, constantly switching from an orthodox to southpaw stance. Every time the befuddled Barrera got within range, Maurin quickly locked him in an embrace. On the rare occasions when Maurin unleashed a couple of punches, they were generally wild shots thrown from the most unorthodox positions imaginable. The 30-year-old scrambler was also very careless with his head, which might have been partially responsible for Barrera's reluctance to launch an unrestrained assault. As it was, Barrera suffered a small, butt-induced cut on his cheek in the fourth.

Perhaps provoked by the sounds of discontent that filled the arena during the sixth round, Barrera, 122, Iztzcalco, Mexico, opened the seventh with a good flurry. But Maurin extricated himself from the ropes little the worse for wear, and before the round was over, the crowd was booing again.

Although Maurin's infuriating style made the fight virtually unwatchable, in his own peculiar way, he was, at times, oddly effective. In the ninth, 11th, and 12th rounds, Maurin, 42-2 (23), either blocked or pulled away from most of Barrera's offerings and countered with light blows of his own, thrown from such oddball angles, it was a shock when a fair number of them found the target.

Judge Harry Davis (Canada) scored a 120-108 shutout for Barrera, while John Poturaj (USA) and Roberto Ramirez (Puerto Rico) both saw it 119-109 for the 25-year-old Mexican. THE RING, however, felt that despite Maurin's fan-unfriendly tactics, Barrera did precious little, himself, and only won by a relatively narrow 116-114 margin. Next for Barrera, 49-2 (36), will probably be a showdown with arch rival Erik Morales, which promises to be the antithesis of the Maurin bore-a-thon.

Referee: Benjy Esteves (USA)

Television: SET

Promoters: Frank Warren, Dillion Productions, and Trump Taj Mahal

(8-7-99)

Nigel Collins

Hideki Todaka W 12 Jesus Rojas

Nagoya, Japan: Aggressive Japanese puncher Todaka, 115, wrested the WBA super flyweight title from Rojas, 115, as he decked the Venezuelan in the second round and kept going forward all the way to win a close but unanimous decision over 12 heats. It was a grudge fight, a rematch of a March bout that ended in a technical draw when the fight was stopped in the fourth round on account of a gash over Rojas' left eye.

The 26-year-old Todaka delivered aggressive fireworks in the opening round, while Rojas, 35, tried with limited success to outjab and counter him. The champ came back to dominate most of the second round, but Todaka caught him with a short counter right to the face that caused Rojas to touch the canvas with his glove. Referee Rafael Ramos (USA) tolled the mandatory eight-count and ordered them to fight on, but the bell came to Rojas' rescue.

Todaka was the aggressor in the third, as he repeatedly pinned the champ on the ropes with busy combinations. Midway through the third, Todaka floored "Kiki" again, but the referee called it a slip.

Rojas, however, regained his pace with sharp jabs and left-right combos, taking the fourth through seventh rounds. Todaka nullified the champ's attack with his tight guard, but offered few accurate blows in return.

The fight turned again in the eighth. Todaka welcomed his second wind and put forth energetic rallies that kept Rojas backpedaling. The challenger was in command in the eighth through 10th with his fine display of aggressiveness, while Rojas appeared sluggish and slow.

But Rojas, 32-8-3 (16) with 1 no-contest, put forth a final surge that nearly enabled him to retain the belt, scoring well with many uppercuts to the fading crowd favorite in the last two sessions. It was not enough, however, as judges Armando Garcia (USA) and Duane Ford (USA) both had it 115-113, and Erkki Meronen (Finland) saw it 115-114, all for Todaka, 15-2-1 (7).

Todaka, a former Japanese 105-pound champ, will make his first defense against fast-rising sensation Akihiko Nago of Japan.

Promoter: Midori Promotions in association with Teiken Promotions

(7-31-99)

Joe Koizumi

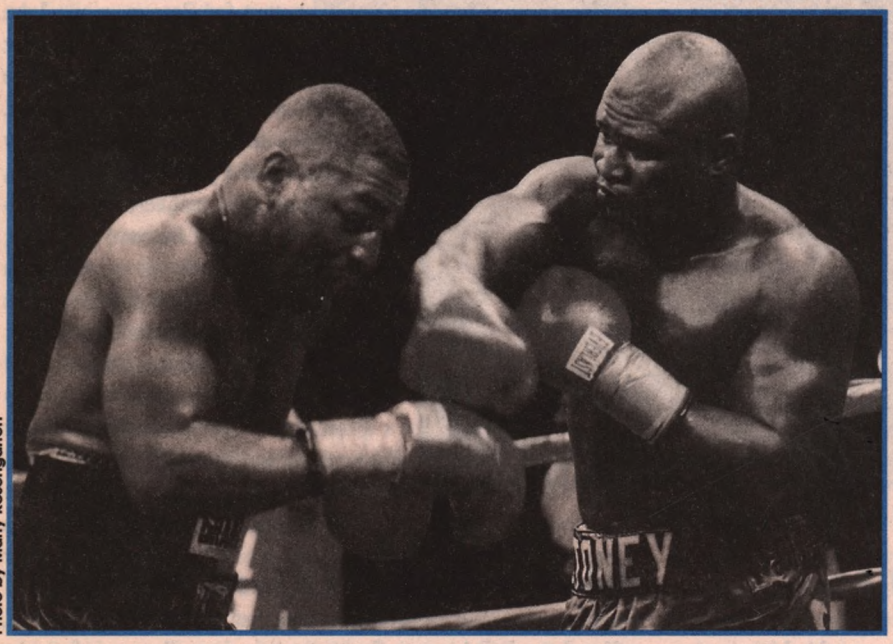


Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Toney was large and in charge against former cruiser champ Washington

James Toney KO 10 Adolpho Washington

Ledyard, Connecticut: Fighting for only the second time in 27 months, but looking like a venerable old pro, former IBF middleweight and super middleweight champion "Lights Out" Toney, 197, Las Vegas, Nevada, utilized his vast offensive and defensive arsenal to ward off the steady, workman-like efforts of onetime IBF cruiserweight titlist Washington, 199, Lexington, Kentucky, at the Foxwoods Casino.

The heavily muscled Toney avoided nearly every punch thrown by the unusually aggressive Washington, and beat him to the punch during every exchange of the one-sided fight. Whatever strategy Washington employed was met with either a dazzling display of defensive wizardry or a two- or three-punch salvo by the still formidable Toney. Although Washington, 31, was bleeding from the nose and mouth by the sixth round, he never stopped propelling himself forward in a vain attempt to get something going. After Toney landed 22 of 34 unanswered punches in the 10th and final round, referee Charles Dwyer (USA) called a halt at the 52-second mark. At the time of the stoppage, Toney was winning handily on the scorecards of all three judges. Harold Gomes (USA) saw it 89-82, while Joe Dwyer (USA) and George Smith (USA) both had it 87-84.

Although Toney, who turned 31 three weeks after the fight, is not nearly as quick afoot as he was at the lighter weights, his performance was reminiscent of the one-sided battering he inflicted on Iran Barkley six years ago. But whether or not he can breathe some life into the moribund cruiserweight division remains in doubt. After losing his veil of invincibility to Roy Jones in November '94, it is doubtful he will ever have the fear factor in his favor at the higher weight. A host of personal problems kept him out of action for the past few years, and his weight had ballooned as high as 250 pounds. Now fighting out of Los Angeles under the tutelage of the esteemed Freddie Roach, Toney has wisely discarded some of his arrogance, as well as his immense entourage, and replaced them with a maniacal work ethic. While he should be able to win a title or two, it is doubtful that even his lustrous name and reputation can generate much in the way of revenue in boxing's bastard division.

"I don't have any more time to waste," said Toney, 57-4-2 (37). "Adolpho Washington was just another fight on the way to winning the cruiserweight title, heavyweight title, or both. I'm like an old-time fighter, and one of the best all-around boxers in the world. But what I want most is a rematch with Roy Jones. I would even be willing to go back down [to 175 pounds] for that."

While Washington, 27-8 (16), including losses in five of his last six fights over the past three years, should contemplate retirement, it is more likely he will become a Jesse Ferguson-like gatekeeper to the cruiserweight top-10. Sadly, and perhaps unfairly, with or without a marquee name like Toney, the division seems far from ready for prime time. HBO's Lou DiBella went so far as to say that even an attractive matchup between Toney and newly crowned IBF champion Vassiliy Jirov would probably be nothing more than the opening bout on a *Boxing After Dark* show.

Television: ESPN2

Promoter: Gelb Promotions

(7-30-99)

Robert Mladinich ■

Francois Botha

(Continued from page 21)

Czyz' Showtime cohort. "Botha has improved his position with an unlikely series of events and has improved his rating incredibly. The fact is that Botha, with limited skills, has taken a year to get himself in the shape of a contending heavyweight. A year ago, he was a beer belly that people could punch around.

"He's serious now. He knows how to fight good enough to win. My impression of him is much higher than it was a year ago. I would like to see Botha fight Tyson or Holyfield or Lennox Lewis—and he just may win. I'm a big believer in Botha because of his heart, and he seems like a simple guy who goes to work and boxes. That is refreshing to me."

In addition, Pacheco points out, Botha is a throwback, reminiscent of fighters like Lou Nova, or a modern-day George Chuvalo, without the penchant to bleed. His style evokes grainy black-and-white images of fighters standing toe-to-toe, slugging in the middle of the ring. Granted, Botha does not have devastating one-punch power or great stamina, but fans are almost guaranteed an action-packed fight every time out.

"Several factors make Botha exciting," Czyz said. "First and foremost, he's a white guy who is a heavyweight. He doesn't come to BS; he comes to fight. He's tough, and he's tied to the right people promotionally. He believes in himself. The man doesn't care who's in front of him. Botha won't quit. He's going to make you have to beat him, and that's how it's supposed to be. Botha's not stellar in anything he does except his will to win. His best asset is his belief in himself."

Botha scored some points with fans in the Tyson fight. He was winning on the scorecards after four rounds, but in the fifth he took that one fateful step and got walloped in the face. Against Briggs, Botha helped himself immeasurably. On paper, Briggs owned every tangible edge. He was two inches taller, held a seven-inch reach advantage, and was more athletic than the portly 6'2" Botha. Briggs also had legendary trainer Emanuel Steward working his corner. But Botha believed if he could impose his will on the fight, Briggs, 31-2-1 (25), would fold.

At the outset, however, it was Briggs who dictated the tempo. He measured the shorter Botha with his jab and connected on his stationary target throughout the first two rounds. Botha changed the course of the fight in the third, closing the distance by working behind a double and triple jab. By the fifth, the two were trading at a brisk pace.

The first sign of trouble for either fighter came in the eighth, when Briggs nailed Botha with a blistering left hook that sent him down near the end of the round. Botha, his heart challenged, struggled to stand and last until the bell. As the ninth round began, Botha stood gingerly in the center of the ring, his legs still wobbly underneath him. Somehow, he summoned the strength to attack Briggs with a pair of clubbing rights to steal the ninth, and went back to the same battle plan in the 10th, slamming overhand right after overhand right into the side of Briggs' head until the final bell. At the end of the fight, Briggs' left ear was bleeding profusely and looked like it was about to fall off.

"I was very concerned with the shots Shannon was taking, and I was not that satisfied with the fight at all," Steward said afterward. "I thought Shannon fought a very stupid fight. He kept getting hit with the same punch over and over again. He waited, and let Botha punch first."

Judges Eugene Grant and John Stewart both scored the fight 94-94, while judge Joe Pasquale scored it 95-92 for Botha. In an unofficial poll of ringside journalists, five had Botha, one Briggs, and one had a draw. According to the on-line voting of viewers watching on Showtime's pay-per-view arm, SET, which took in 45,000 buys, Botha was the winner, seven rounds to three.

"I didn't talk to anyone outside of Briggs' people who thought that Briggs had won that fight," Pacheco said.

Outwardly at least, Botha portrayed a diplomatic side. He knew he was the people's choice as the winner, which was somewhat satisfying. He also knew what environment he was walking into when he agreed to fight Briggs in Atlantic City.

"I knew coming to Atlantic City that I would have a hard time getting a decision here," said Botha. "I didn't want to put the outcome in the hands of the judges, but I felt we both came out winners. It wasn't going to help me to go crazy about the decision. I know in my heart and the people know that I won. That's good enough for me."

Since the Briggs fight, Botha's phone hasn't stopped ringing. Suddenly, The White Buffalo is a hot property. McPherson mentioned a possible rematch against Tyson and fights against either Holyfield or Lewis in Botha's future.

Botha accepts the fact that he's not the body beautiful and that his fighting style is not that aesthetically pleasing to some. But at least people know now he *can* fight.

"I don't think I'll ever look like Arnold Schwarzenegger, but I know I've earned a lot of respect with these last two fights, and it's a great feeling to know that people respect you and know you're a good fighter," Botha said. "It's good to know people finally really want to see you fight. I want to be a world champion again, but I have to say, whether I do or I don't, I feel I'm really blessed." ■

Golota-Grant

(Continued from page 25)

Grant's reflective attitude is refreshing up to a point, but "comfort" and "technique" don't sell tickets. Fans originally took to him because of his majestic appearance and ability to end a fight with a few well-placed punches. Thanks to his indifferent performances against Savarese and Ahmad Abdin (KO 10), Grant needs an impressive outing against Golota to retain his position as heir apparent to the heavyweight throne. But he doesn't see it quite that way.

"I don't think I have anything to prove," said Grant. "The intensity of my opponent will elevate me. So, if my opponent comes to fight, you can expect a showcase for Michael Grant. But if he comes to lag and hang around, you can probably expect a bad performance."

Although Grant, 30-0 (21), will undoubtedly enter the ring as the favorite, there is something to be said for the notion that Golota, 34-3 (28), will provide

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BACK ISSUES OF KO

Back issues of several editions of *KO Magazine*, the acknowledged leader in boxing journalism, are still available in limited quantity. Since its inception in 1980, *KO* has become known for its quality stories and columns and peak-action photographs. Plus, each issue contains a full-color centerfold. Don't delay. Supplies are running out!

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Oct. 1983: Is Larry Holmes Finished? Color Pinup: Greg Page. Interview: Marvis Frazier. Also: Marvin Hagler, Bobby Chacon, Jack Dempsey.

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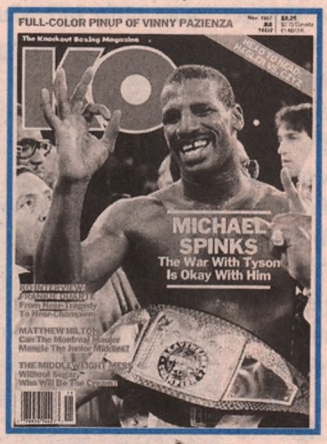

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Golota-Grant

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him with the toughest test of his career so far. If this is to be the case, one has to presume that the six victories that Golota has tallied since the Lewis disaster have restored his confidence and that he will not freeze again the way he did against the WBC champion. Having inserted that caveat, let's look at some of the tools Golota will bring into the ring with him.

Physically, he matches up reasonably well with Grant. At 6'4" and approximately 235 pounds, Golota will be the smaller man, but won't exactly be dwarfed by the 6'7", 250-pound Grant. And even though he's only had seven more professional bouts than Grant, Golota's lengthy amateur career, which culminated in his winning a bronze medal at the '88 Olympics, gives him a decided edge in experience. There are those, even outside of his camp, who believe Golota's boxing skills will be too much for Grant to handle and will result in an upset victory for the man from Warsaw. Adding to their confidence is the fact that Grant, despite the reach and height advantage he's enjoyed against every one of his opponents, is relatively easy to hit.

"If Golota takes the fight to Grant, he beats him," said veteran trainer Tommy Gallagher. "It's a guessing game with these two because they're both suspect. If you jump on Golota, he collapses. But Grant is very beatable. It's just a question of which Golota shows up. If he shows up and shows some courage, he'll beat Grant."

Regardless of which Golota shows up, courage and boxing skills might not be enough. If Golota is aggressive, he'll bring out the beast in Grant, and probably suffer a spectacular knockout defeat. If he tries to outbox Grant, the agony will only be prolonged. Grant's jab is longer and will get there first, which means a busted-up face for Golota, resulting in either a late-round TKO or a decision loss. But a victory of the latter sort will not suffice if Grant expects a groundswell of public pressure to force the winner of Holyfield-Lewis II to fight him. This will be especially true if Lewis wins, because comparisons with the Englishman's first-round blitz of Golota are inevitable. Still, Grant's take on the situation seems far more circumspect than combative.

"It really doesn't put no pressure on me," said Grant. "This boxing game is so unpredictable, so funny. I can have a bad performance and look bad to the public, and Lennox Lewis would fight me the next day because he would feel that I'm still immature. But if I look sensational, Lennox Lewis won't want to fight me."

While there is undoubtedly some truth to what Grant says, his words are not those we're used to hearing from a man who wants to be heavyweight champion of the world. He lacks the macho ranting of Tyson, the snobbish condescension of Lewis, or the Bible-thumping cockiness of Holyfield. This is not to say he isn't self-confident; Grant is a supremely assured young man. But as his former manager, Bill Cayton, once noted, he seems to lack the "fire in his belly" that has been the hallmark of all great fighters. And if the best way to ignite that fire would be for Golota to take dead aim on that oversized protective cup Grant wears—so be it. Because then we just might get to see a fighter worthy of following in the footsteps of the two men who will be battling for the undisputed heavyweight title the week before Grant and Golota step into the ring. ■

Holyfield vs. Lewis

(Continued from page 33)

their careers. (Note: Louis-Conn II took five years, but that delay was due to World War II.)

The difference in age between combatants is usually an accurate gauge in determining the winner of any prize fight, and it certainly played a role in the two Spinks-Holmes bouts. While both of those fights were close, on most occasions the young conquer the old, and they usually do it quicker the second time around. Heavyweight champion James J. Jeffries had an 11-year age advantage against Bob Fitzsimmons and cut his margin of victory from 11 rounds to eight in the rematch. Jeffries was eight years younger than James J. Corbett, and thus shaved 13 rounds (KO 23 to KO 10) off the distance between their first and second fights.

There was a nine-year difference between Marciano and Walcott, but it would have appeared that Walcott aged 90 years between their two fights. The initial contest was a grueling affair that saw Marciano rise from a first-round knockdown to eventually starch Walcott, who was ahead on points, in the 13th round. In the rematch, Marciano finished off Walcott in the opening round. But enough heavyweight title rematches have been won by the older man to prove that the rule is far from unequivocal. Ali-Spinks II and Holyfield-Bowe II are prime examples.

On paper, the age difference in this fight is marginal. The 37-year-old Holyfield was born only 2 years 11 months before Lewis, who is 34. So why does Holyfield seem so much older? The reason is that Holyfield turned pro in 1984, five years before Lewis. When Lewis was making his pro debut, Holyfield had already unified the cruiserweight division and had begun his march to the heavyweight crown.

In assessing the age difference between a pair of fighters, one should consult more than the birth certificates. Of equal importance is the ring record. Marciano was just two years and two months younger than Charles, but Charles had begun his professional boxing career seven years earlier than Marciano. They engaged in two bouts over a three-month span in '45. At the time, Marciano was at his physical peak, while Charles was on the last lap of a brilliant career. The first Marciano-Charles bout ended with The Rock retaining his crown on a close (8-5-2, 8-6-1, and 9-5-1 in rounds) unanimous decision. When the verdict was announced, it was met with a chorus of boos by the 47,585 fans in attendance at Yankee Stadium.

The rematch, while far more dramatic, was not nearly as competitive a bout. Marciano controlled the action from the outset, dropping Charles in the second round. Then near the close of round six, Marciano sustained a huge gash on the tip of his nose. In the next round, Charles opened a cut above the champion's left eye. While Marciano was winning on the

scorecards, he was in danger of losing his crown on a referee's stoppage. Unwilling to allow a third-party to decide his fate, Marciano ended matters with a knockout in round eight.

The question will forever remain: What would have happened if the refined Charles and the crude Marciano met while each was in his prime? Yes, Marciano's incredible will to win may have propelled him to victory under any circumstances, but it could be just as easily argued that a fresher, more resilient Charles would have outskilled Marciano.

So who is the better fighter, Holyfield or Lewis? History will certainly say Holyfield. But that does not mean he will win the rematch. If Holyfield and Lewis had emerged at the top of the heavyweight division simultaneously, Holyfield would probably have been heavily favored to win. But, much like Marciano and Charles, they did not. They are fighting while Holyfield is on the exit ramp of his career, while Lewis, still perhaps an underachiever, is much closer to his prime.

Holyfield, one of the greatest warriors of his generation, has logged many, many ring miles, and he has rarely been in a dull fight; the first Lewis match was one of the exceptions. The reason that most of The Real Deal's fights have been exciting is the sustained give-and-take of punches his style usually ignites. Yet his punch output in the first Lewis bout was anemic. According to numbers provided by CompuBox, Holyfield was credited with landing just 130 blows to Lewis' 348. Commander Vander is atypical for an action fighter because he has enjoyed a long career, but if the first Lewis fight is any indicator, his bruising style may have finally taken its toll. Lewis, on the other hand, has not endured such punishment. He is not generally in fights that feature prolonged exchanges, and when he is in an exciting bout, it is usually because he has registered a stunning knockout.

Above anything else, ring mileage will be the deciding factor in the rematch. Time catches up with all fighters. Many heavyweight title fight rematches—from Jeffries-Fitzsimmons to Marciano-Walcott to Spinks-Holmes—testify to that simple truth. Time has finally caught up with Holyfield, and history will repeat itself when Holyfield and Lewis meet again. And this time, maybe even the judges will get it right. ■

Robert Cassidy is a freelance writer based in New York City and a former associate editor of this magazine.

Arturo Gatti

(Continued from page 39)

As Gatti's comeback continues, we're sure to get more answers about how much of the old magic still remains. Several names of potential opponents were being tossed around as soon as Gatti's first win in nearly two years was recorded, and Gatti seemed to welcome any and all worthwhile challenges:

About a showdown with fellow Canadian Billy Irwin in Montreal: "Well, Billy Irwin's a tough fighter, but there's only one tough fighter from Canada, and that's Arturo Gatti ... It's great, I mean, they deserve to see me back in Montreal. It's been a lot of years that I haven't been back as a fighter, and they deserve it, it's exciting."

About a rematch with Manfredy, who remains an attractive opponent despite failing in his bid to capture the WBC lightweight title from Stevie Johnston on the Gatti-Munoz card: "Me and Angel Manfredy's a great fight. I deserve a rematch against him because I think he walked away with a little luck that night."

About new WBC super lightweight champion Kostya Tszyu or Mexican legend Julio Cesar Chavez: "I would love to do it. My next fight could be them if that's possible. If a title's on the line, then I'll do it ... It's not even about the money. Just whenever I can fight for a world title, I don't care who it is. That's all I care. To be a world champion again."

Considering his recent struggles, Gatti's dream of becoming a two-time champ may seem farfetched to some. But did you expect him to come back and win when he was on the brink of defeat against Wilson Rodriguez and, later, Ruelas? Did you expect him to go 0-3 in '98? Did you expect that he'd ever have another fight

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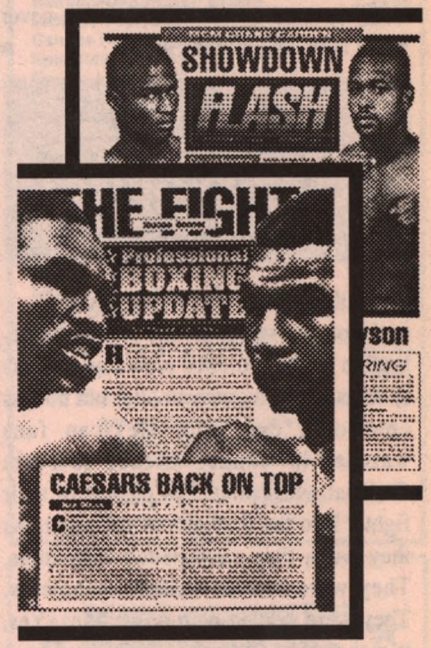

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Arturo Gatti

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that not only wasn't a Fight of the Year candidate, but was so unspectacular it left his fans feeling ripped off? That's what happened on that bizarre August night at Foxwoods, the latest chapter in a career where the unexpected has become the norm. Gatti's on a new streak now—a winning streak—and with him, you never know how long it might go on. ■

Michael Carbajal

(Continued from page 43)

after all, is not all that unlike himself.

Upon the stoppage, the frenzied celebration by the pro-Arce crowd was quickly replaced by a much smaller but no less emotional one. The Mexican fans watched in stunned silence as Team Carbajal whisked all 108 pounds of their fighter into the darkness of the night. As they went, they were pelted with coins. They were littered with refreshments. They were riddled with obscenities. Yes, it was perfect. At one point, Danny was drenched with a cup of liquid he assumed to be beer.

"Turned out to be urine," Danny said, likening the experience to *Rocky IV*, when the movie pug visited Russia. "It was that hostile, yes. Except in the movie, the Russians all turned with Rocky. When you win in Mexico, things get a lot worse."

But for Carbajal, who had just rewritten an exciting new chapter in his fistic saga, the celebration had just begun. He and his camp quickly departed the ring, dissolving into the hostile crowd.

When Michael and Danny Carbajal cleansed themselves of garbage, urine, and two years of heartache, they once again found themselves gleaming in boxing's rose garden. Yet, how long the ride will last is yet to be known. The power that collapsed a young Mexican bull with one swipe remains sturdily packed in his fists. Rematches with Arce and Matlala, or perhaps a meeting with undefeated Mexican phenom Ricardo Lopez have brewed through the mind of promoter Bob Arum since the night Carbajal defeated Arce. But with the fading skills, the waning hand speed, and the dulling reflexes, the inevitable darkness could be setting in above. But until it does, it appears that Michael Carbajal's star is meant to shine for just a little bit longer.■

Ted Bodenrader is a freelance writer based in Boston, Massachusetts, and a regular contributor to this magazine.

Tony Ayala

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I'm convinced it's over, we can walk away with our heads held high. We would have the satisfaction of knowing we gave it our best shot."

Initially, there was talk of pairing Ayala against Jose Cataneo Hudson, described by Tony Sr. as being 29-14, but in reality only 13-42-2, with 13 consecutive defeats. When Hudson's record was revealed, he was, by popular demand, eliminated from consideration for the Ayala gig.

Enter Esparza, the Oklahoma City resident who seemingly had all the requisites for selling the fight *and* helping Ayala return on a winning note. A white Hispanic with a hip-hop demeanor, Esparza, who had turned pro at the tender age of 14, arrived with a more acceptable record (19-4-1) than Hudson, albeit compiled against questionable opposition, and the lack of punching power (only five knockouts) mandated by Team Ayala. He also brought along a bagful of outrageous quotes and some major attitude, which served to paint the baggage-laden Ayala as almost a sympathetic figure.

Esparza—whose father-trainer, Alex, is 36, the same age as Ayala—immediately created a stir when he told reporters he "felt like a pimp" who was going to "slap Ayala around like he was a [woman] working for me."

Considering the hard time Ayala had spent for horrific crimes against a female victim, Esparza's rant was inappropriate at best, utterly offensive at worst. But he was only getting warmed up. Noting the crow's feet around Ayala's eyes and his receding hairline, Esparza said he thought Ayala "looks like he's 42 years old" and was nothing more than an "old, balding fighter."

"I feel like I've got more experience than him," Esparza continued. "He's been locked up for 16 years. That's got to take something away from you. His legs have got to be gone. I've got too much patience and I can counterpunch and box. I'll let him do what he wants for the first three rounds. Then, I'll pick my spots and give him bodyshots. He'll be worn out by the fifth or sixth round. He's going to try to blow me out and knock me out early and look good in front of the fans. But he won't do that. He might not be ready for a 10-round fight. His legs will be old, and I don't think he has what it takes to go the whole 10 rounds against me."

Turning to Ayala, Esparza asked which he liked more, mustard or mayonnaise. Before Ayala could answer, Esparza said he needed to know "because I'm going to be feeding you fist sandwiches all night."

Ayala, who once spat upon a fighter he had knocked down, Jose Baltazar, looked at Esparza as we might an alien who had landed from another planet. Had he been gone so long that he deserved being dissed by some wet-behind-the-ears kid?

"All my life, I've met guys like you who like to talk a lot of s___," Ayala responded. "I hope your bite is as tough as your bark."

Ayala's bark also had come into question a few weeks earlier, when he had described two-time former world champion and fellow San Antonian Jesse James Leija as a "coward" who had "quit" in his 1995 bout with De La Hoya. Those comments created quite a public-relations flap for event coordinator Lester Bedford, Leija's longtime manager, who wanted Leija to appear on Ayala's comeback card.

"It's like an NBA player going to prison for 16 years, getting out, and ripping David Robinson and Tim Duncan," said Bedford, who described the logistics of putting on the pay-per-view bout as "the most difficult thing I've ever been involved with in boxing."

Leija did indeed appear on the undercard—following a meeting with Ayala during which Ayala apologized to him—

but all the side dramas seemed inconsequential as the main event drew near. This was Ayala's show all the way, and a near-sellout crowd of 10,676, which produced a live gate of $432,000, easily justified Ayala's welcome-back purse of $200,000.

"He's Baaack," read the message on placards held by Ayala supporters, some of whom were too young to remember the previous incarnation.

"The last time I fought here was almost 17 years ago," Ayala said after he dispatched Esparza. "Coming into the ring, I felt a great deal of nervousness because I was afraid to fail,"

It would have been difficult for him to fail against Esparza, not in a cozy, 18-foot ring that made it easier for Ayala, 23-0 (20), to cut off the mouthy kid's escape routes. Esparza early on chose to drift to the ropes, where he hoped to find counterpunching opportunities, but it was a doomed strategy. Ayala homed in like a heat-seeking missile, where he bashed away with heavy-handed combinations.

The outcome seemed preordained in the third round when Ayala, working almost casually, delivered a left hook to the liver that sent Esparza down to one knee. Esparza rose, but there was no place to go but down again after Ayala unfurled another searing series of blows, punctuated by another crunching hook to the body. He was still down on one knee when referee Rafael Ramos counted him out at the 2:50 mark.

Ayala, who has rechristened himself "El Toro," said the first knockdown punch brought back a flood of memories of what was and might be again.

"It felt like the old days," he said.

Said the well-bruised Esparza: "He came out stronger than I thought he would. He kept rushing me."

Had he been in with a better fighter, Ayala's rust spots might have been more apparent. Then again, after a few more bouts, maybe there won't be any rust spots to conceal. If you want to believe in miracles, don't entirely discount the possibility that Ayala can make it back enough to remind us of what it was that got us excited in the first place. ■

Bernard Fernandez covers boxing for the Philadelphia Daily News and is a regular contributor to this magazine.

Lou Filippo

(Continued from page 57)

in which the other two judges voted for Leonard, who was coming off a three-year layoff.

"I thought Leonard did a lot of pitty-pat and tried to steal rounds," Filippo said. "Angelo Dundee [Leonard's trainer] would yell, 'Thirty seconds!' and Leonard would throw a lot of pitty-pat stuff. But you can't win a round in the last 30 seconds."

Not as shrewd a judge of cinema, Filippo, who auditioned for the original *Rocky* film, said, "I didn't think it was gonna be that great a picture." It won the Academy Award for Best Picture in 1976. While fight scenes in it and its sequels are, in the estimation of the man who refereed most of them, "way out," that wasn't Filippo's fault. He wasn't hired as a technical adviser.

"You learn that on the set you don't make suggestions," he said. "If they ask you, okay, but they're the people with the money and the smarts."

Being in the movies "isn't as glamorous as people think," said the former brawler who keeps in shape for his real-to-reel ring duties by running and working out daily. "There's a lot of waiting around. I'd rather referee a real fight." ■

Pete Ehrmann is a freelance writer based in West Allis, Wisconsin, and a regular contributor to this magazine.

New Faces

(Continued from page 60)

would do better with an apprenticeship using his fists. He's really a lovely lad. What you see in Anthony is a Jekyll-Hyde character. A nice quiet kid outside the ring. But if I was ever marooned on a desert island and the Viet Cong were coming after me, Anthony's the one I'd want by my side."

The 21-year-old Farnell took out Israel Ponce via third-round knockout on the Botha-Briggs card, but caught some shots, too, before putting his man away. Farnell felt a little rushed getting into the ring because, after being told he'd be

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New Faces

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fighting the second bout, his fight was switched and went on first. Without sufficient time to warm up, Farnell was anxious, and it showed in the first round. He was forced to absorb some stinging combinations before settling down and finding his range. Once he did, however, Farnell tagged the Puerto Rican with a fusillade of left hooks. One hook dropped Ponce in the second, and another pair did more damage in the third, finally forcing referee Samuel Viruet to stop the fight.

"That kid works your body, and he's real strong," Ponce said of Farnell after the fight. "I don't think I hurt him at all."

Still, Farnell was disappointed with the first round, and felt it was not a true indication of what he could do.

"I can box well; I have a good jab," Farnell stressed. "But I was rushed from the dressing room. The first round, I was just taking my time, thinking. I know I have the power and good body strength. If I get hit, I think about defense, but I just think about throwing the next punch most of the time."

Farnell pointed out that he used to be unconventional in that he's right-handed, yet left-footed. Originally, he had a tendency to step the wrong way before he threw a punch, but has since worked that kink out of his delivery. He still needs work, he admits, in subduing the street-fighter in him that occasionally surfaces in the ring.

"Anthony's very strong for a junior middle, and he has good boxing skills," said Robin Reid, the former WBC super middleweight champion, who also works closely with Farnell. "He comes forward a lot and he has a very strong chin. But sometimes, Anthony does forget his boxing skills. He can't take punches like that all of the time. In time, he'll learn with distance fights to use all of his boxing skills. He's young, he's anxious, and he's eager. But I do see skills in him, and I see a world title in his future."

Quiet and unassuming growing up, Farnell had one weakness: He never learned to walk away from trouble. He wasn't a criminal by any means, he just had a habit of walking straight into the brunt of confrontations, when other measures could have been taken to avoid them. If someone said something Farnell didn't like, up went his fists. And trouble didn't only occur when someone pushed his buttons. He would also step in for a friend who was being bullied around by someone older or bigger.

"My temper would click off and on real fast," Farnell said. "I was fighting in the streets a lot, when my friends suggested I try boxing. There was this club around the corner of my house, and a bunch of us were supposed to show up and train. I was the only one who brought any training gear. From that first day, I was hooked."

Farnell quickly discovered that boxing was much different than streetfighting. In the streets, Farnell could use his legs or hit someone when their back was turned. No rules applied. Boxing required dedication, precision, and patience. Farnell learned that lesson when he lost in his first amateur bout, but he regrouped and proceeded to win 23 of his next 24 matches before turning pro.

"Anthony's the toughest lad I've ever known," said Arnie's Army member Lee Mason, a window cleaner from Manchester who has known the fighter since they attended St. Matthews High School together. "He's always been a fighter, and I get the feeling he always knew he would be a boxer. He was what you would say the 'Cock Of The School.' You knew you'd never get beat up with him around. Everyone became scared of Arnie, even the teachers in school. It's unbelievable the training he does now. That's all he does is train, train, train. He's the next big thing to come out of Manchester."

Frank Warren, who promotes Farnell, certainly hopes so. Warren had heard about Farnell through Hughes when the fighter was an amateur. "People see Anthony fight and forget he's still a baby; he's only 21," said Warren, who says he's being careful how quickly he moves Farnell. "He could work on his defense a little more, but he can definitely punch. He also has a big heart and a big chin. I'd like to see him fight for a European title the next 12 months, then fight for a world title after that." ■

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WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by The Ring are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBA ratings were compiled as of June 1999, the WBC as of July 1999, and the IBF as of July 1999.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Lennox Lewis (GB)	C	–	–
Evander Holyfield (USA)	–	C	C
John Ruiz (USA)	1	2	3
David Tua (NZ)	2	–	1
Michael Grant (USA)	3	6	–
Larry Donald (USA)	4	3	4
Zeljko Mavrovic (CROA)	5	11	–
Andrew Golota (POL)	6	–	11
Shannon Briggs (USA)	7	–	–
Hasim Rahman (USA)	8	–	5
Ross Puritty (USA)	9	–	–
Henry Akinwande (GB)	10	1	6
Kirk Johnson (CAN)	–	4	8
Oleg Maskaev (UKR)	28	5	–
Wladimir Klitchko (UKR)	11	7	–
Jade Scott (USA)	18	8	–
Derrick Jefferson (USA)	29	9	–
Dick Ryan (USA)	–	10	–
Ike Ibeabuchi (NIG)	–	–	2
Chris Byrd (USA)	22	–	7
Danell Nicholson (USA)	–	–	9
Monte Barrett (USA)	14	–	10

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Juan Carlos Gomez (CUBA)	C	–	–
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	–	C	–
Vassiliy Jirov (KAZ)	–	–	C
Dale Brown (CAN)	1	5	3
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	2	–	–
Saul Montana (MEX)	3	1	1
Alexei Ilin (RUS)	4	9	–
Andre Purlette (GUY)	5	–	6
Stefan Anghern (SWI)	6	–	–
Terry Dunstan (GB)	7	–	9
Alex Gonzalez (PR)	8	–	–
Samuel Florimond (FRA)	9	–	11
Virgil Hill (USA)	10	2	–
Valery Vikhor (LAT)	–	3	–
Akim Tafer (FRA)	–	4	–
Stefan Anghern (SWI)	–	6	–
Imamu Mayfield (USA)	15	7	5
Alexander Gurov (UKR)	–	8	–
Ezequiel Paixao (BRA)	–	10	–
Alex Gonzales (USA)	–	–	2
Torsten May (GER)	16	–	4
Arthur Williams (USA)	14	–	7
Napoleon Tagoe (USA)	12	–	8
Stefan Anghem (SWI)	–	–	10

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Roy Jones (USA)	C	C	C
Michael Nunn (USA)	1	9	–
Montell Griffin (USA)	2	–	7
Clinton Woods (GB)	3	10	–
Hisashi Teraji (JAP)	4	–	–
Muhammad Siluvangi (ZAI)	5	–	3
Eric Harding (USA)	6	4	10
Reggie Johnson (USA)	7	–	6
Lou Del Valle (USA)	8	3	8
Yawe Davis (ITA)	9	–	–
Antonio Tarver (USA)	10	–	1
Richard Hall (USA)	–	1	–
David Telesco (USA)	–	2	9
Derrick Harmon (USA)	15	5	–
Glenn Kelly (AUSTRL)	14	6	4
Timo Masua (NZ)	–	7	–
Rogerio Lobo (BRA)	–	8	–
Vacant	–	–	2
Will Taylor (USA)	–	–	5

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Richie Woodhall (GB)	C	–	–
Byron Mitchell (USA)	–	C	–
Sven Ottke (GER)	–	–	C
Glenn Catley (GB)	1	–	–
Eric Lucas (CAN)	2	4	11
Bruno Girard (FRA)	3	1	3
David Starie (GB)	4	5	6
Zafarou Ballogou (TOGO)	5	11	4
Dean Francis (GB)	6	–	12
Mario Velt (GER)	7	8	8
Frank Liles (USA)	8	2	–
Vinny Pazienza (USA)	9	–	–
Omar Sheika (USA)	10	–	–
Thomas Tate (USA)	–	3	1
Jorge Castro (ARG)	–	6	–
Manuel Siacca (PR)	–	7	–
Frederic Alvarez (FRA)	–	9	–
Craig Cummings (USA)	–	10	–
Charles Brewer (USA)	–	–	2
Glenn Johnson (USA)	20	–	5
Bryant Brannon (USA)	–	–	7
Tocker Pudwill (USA)	–	–	9
Sam Leuii (AUSTRL)	–	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Keith Holmes (USA)	C	–	–
William Joppy (USA)	–	C	–
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	–	C
Robert McCracken (GB)	1	5	3
Antwun Echols (USA)	2	–	–
Hassine Cherifi (FRA)	3	–	8
Kevin Palmer (USA)	4	–	–
Giovanni Pretorius (SA)	5	4	6
Davey Hilton (CAN)	6	11	4
Erland Betare (FRA)	7	–	–
Davide Ciarlante (ITA)	8	–	–
Howard Eastman (GB)	9	6	12
Dana Rosenblatt (USA)	10	10	–
Rito Ruvalcaba (MEX)	–	1	10
Antwun Echols (USA)	–	2	–
Winky Wright (USA)	–	3	–
Darren Obah (AUSTRL)	–	7	–
Ramon Moyano (ARG)	20	8	–
Sikat Pasarib (IND)	–	9	–
Antwun Echols (USA)	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Brian Barbosa (USA)	13	–	5
Robert Allen (USA)	15	–	7
Andrew Council (USA)	18	–	9

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Francisco Castillejo (SPA)	C	–	–
David Reid (USA)	–	C	–
Fernando Vargas (USA)	–	–	C
Tony Marshall (USA)	1	–	–
Mamadou Thiam (FRA)	2	2	–
Keith Mullings (USA)	3	–	–
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	4	4	12
Roman Karmazin (RUS)	5	9	10
Anthony Jones (USA)	6	10	–
Rodney Jones (USA)	7	6	11
Tony Badea (ROM)	8	–	–
Quirino Garcia (MEX)	9	–	–
Kevin Kelly (USA)	10	1	–
Pedro Ortega (MEX)	–	3	–
Jose Luis Lopez (MEX)	–	5	–
Javier Castillo (PAN)	–	7	–
Raul Frank (GUY)	–	8	–
Winky Wright (USA)	15	–	1
Ross Thompson (USA)	–	–	2
Earnie Artango (AUSTRL)	28	–	3
Bronco McKart (USA)	20	–	4
Yory Boy Campas (MEX)	16	–	5
Carl Daniels (USA)	12	12	6
Emmett Linton (USA)	–	11	7
Marshall Simpson (GUY)	–	–	8
Raul Marquez (USA)	–	–	9

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Oscar De La Hoya (USA)	C	–	–
James Page (USA)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Derrell Coley (USA)	1	–	6
Shannan Taylor (AUSTRL)	2	4	12
Ike Quartey (GHA)	3	7	3
Vernon Forrest (USA)	4	6	2
Nicolas Cervera (COL)	5	10	–
Hector Camacho Jr (USA)	6	–	–
Oba Carr (USA)	7	8	5
Jose Luis Lopez (MEX)	8	–	–
Kofi Jantuah (GHA)	9	–	–
Alessandro Duran (ITA)	10	–	–
Vacant	–	1	–
Andrew Lewis (GUY)	24	2	–
Michael Trabant (GERE)	28	3	–
Andrei Pestraiev (RUS)	–	5	–
Carlos Baldomir (ARG)	11	9	–
Raul Frank (USA)	–	–	1
Michael Covington (USA)	–	–	4
Hugo Pineda (COL)	–	–	7
Sean Sullivan (AUSTRL)	–	–	8
Leonard Townsend (USA)	–	–	9
Sam Garr (USA)	16	–	10

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
ant	C	1	–
rmba Mitchell (USA)	–	C	–
ron Millett (USA)	–	–	C
guel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	1	–	–
o Cesar Chavez (MEX)	2	9	–
belis Hurtado (CUB)	3	–	–
ay Urkal (TUR)	4	–	7
gil Kim (KOR)	5	–	–
rance Cauthen (USA)	6	–	–
ze Phillips (USA)	7	–	8
hail Krivolapov (RUS)	8	–	–
ned Santos (USA)	9	–	–
mas Damgaard (DEN)	10	6	–
el Pendleton (USA)	–	2	12
o Ortiz (VEN)	–	3	–
chi Ono (JAP)	–	4	–
gil McClendon (USA)	–	5	4
ggie Green (USA)	13	7	–
tor Camacho Jr (PR)	–	8	6
lid Rahilou (FRA)	–	10	–
o Judah (USA)	–	–	1
ne Mosley (USA)	–	–	2
Bergman (SA)	–	–	3
sar Leiva (ARG)	19	–	5
tor Lopez (USA)	–	–	9
n Vester (DEN)	17	–	10

IGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
ve Johnston (USA)	C	–	–
len Lorcy (FRA)	–	C	–
ant	–	–	C
ly Schwer (GB)	1	5	4
sar Bazan (MEX)	2	–	–
nai Sithkodam (THAI)	3	–	–
ng Soo Choi (KOR)	4	–	–
oyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	5	–	–
io Rios (ARG)	6	–	–
ki Yoshimura (JAP)	7	4	–
storiano Damian Sosa (DR)	8	–	–
mel Lifa (FRA)	9	7	–
ng Kwon Baek (KOR)	10	–	–
bert Serrano (VEN)	–	1	–
berto Sicurella (ARG)	12	2	–
el Cardona (USA)	–	3	1
n-Baptiste Mendy (FRA)	11	6	–
den Johnson (USA)	17	8	–
il Martinez (USA)	–	9	–
sar Garcia Cano (SPA)	–	10	–
ly Irwin (CAN)	22	–	2
el Spadafora (USA)	–	–	3
nato Cornett (AUS)	–	–	5
orge Scott (SWE)	–	–	6
gel Manfredy (USA)	–	–	7
wrence Ngobeni (SA)	–	–	8
vemore Ndou (SA)	–	–	9
phane Smith (GB)	–	–	10

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
oyd Mayweather (USA)	C	–	–
kva Sim (MON)	–	C	–
bert Garcia (USA)	–	–	C
sus Chavez (USA)	1	–	11
yo Vargas (MEX)	2	–	–
rick Gainer (USA)	3	–	2
vemore Ndou (SA)	4	–	–
rimongkol Singmanassuk (THAI)	5	–	–
ngo Nagashima (JAP)	6	10	–
rlos Gerena (PR)	7	6	3
nnis Holbaek (DEN)	8	4	10
ger Ari (PHIL)	9	–	–
gel Manfredy (USA)	10	–	–
el Casamayor (CUB)	–	1	4
ng Soo Choi (KOR)	–	2	–
ego Corrales (USA)	11	3	1
ksanan Nanthachai (THAI)	–	5	–
ion Xuxa Nacimento (BRA)	–	7	–
kanori Hatakeyama (JAP)	–	8	–
ntcho Tontchev (BUL)	21	9	–
bbie Peden (AUSTRL)	–	–	5
rlos Hernandez (USA)	–	–	6
ntos Rebolledo (VEN)	–	–	7
rold Warren (USA)	–	–	8
in Brown (USA)	–	–	9

EATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
sar Soto (MEX)	C	–	–
yd Norwood (USA)	–	C	–
anuel Medina (MEX)	–	–	C
isito Espinosa (PHIL)	1	6	–
deo Imaoka (JAP)	2	–	–
ty Espadas (MEX)	3	–	–
in Chi (KOR)	4	–	–
Pablo Chacon (ARG)	5	4	5
Takashi Koshimoto (JAP)	6	–	–
Edgar Barcenas (MEX)	7	–	–
Istvan Kovacs (HUN)	8	8	–
Carlos Rios (ARG)	9	–	–
Steve Robinson (GB)	10	–	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	24	1	–
Frederic Perez (FRA)	15	2	–
Derrick Gainer (USA)	–	3	–
Victor Polo (COL)	–	5	12
Angel Vasquez (PR)	–	7	8
Juan Manuel Marquez (MEX)	–	9	6
Lewis Wood (USA)	16	10	–
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	–	3
Oscar Larios (MEX)	–	–	4
Jesus Chavez (USA)	–	–	7
Tracy Patterson (USA)	–	–	9
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	–	–	10

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Erik Morales (MEX)	C	–	–
Nestor Garza (MEX)	–	C	–
Lehlo Ledwaba (SA)	–	–	C
Reynante Jamili (PHIL)	1	10	–
Michael Brodie (GB)	2	7	3
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	3	–	–
Willie Jorrin (USA)	4	–	6
Jesus Salud (USA)	5	–	5
Sergei Devakov (UKR)	6	–	–
Kozo Ishii (JAP)	7	–	–
Ariston Clayton (USA)	8	–	–
Oscar Larios (MEX)	9	–	–
John Johnson (USA)	10	8	9
Yobert Ortega (VEN)	–	1	–
Richard Carrillo (VEN)	–	2	–
Bugiarso (INDO)	–	3	–
Enrique Sanchez (MEX)	15	4	–
Carlos Barreto (VEN)	–	5	–
Vladislav Antonov (RUS)	29	6	7
Guty Espadas (MEX)	–	9	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Ernesto Gray (COL)	–	–	2
Andrian Kaspari (INDO)	–	–	4
Sean Fletcher (USA)	–	–	8
Agapito Sanchez (DR)	25	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Veerapol Sahaprom (THAI)	C	–	–
Paul Ayala (USA)	–	C	–
Tim Austin (USA)	–	–	C
Adan Vargas (MEX)	1	3	7
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	2	–	5
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	3	–	–
Hugo Dianzo (MEX)	4	–	–
Cuauhtemoc Gomez (MEX)	5	7	–
Johnny Tapia (USA)	6	4	–
Jess Maca (PHIL)	7	–	–
Gerardo Martinez (MEX)	8	–	–
Cruz Carbajal (MEX)	9	–	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	10	2	4
Sahoiu Sithchai Condo (THAI)	–	1	–
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	13	5	6
Jose Luis Valbuena (VEN)	–	6	–
Kozo Ishii (KOR)	–	8	–
Rafael Marquez (MEX)	18	9	–
Eidy Moya (VEN)	–	10	–
Bernardo Mendoza (CHI)	–	–	1
Jesus Perez (COL)	23	–	2
Jose Mendoza (COL)	–	–	3
Johnny Armour (GB)	–	–	8
Pedro Rincon (COL)	–	–	9
Jorge Lacierva (MEX)	–	12	10

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
In Joo Cho (KOR)	C	–	–
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	–	C	–
Mark Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	1	–	4
Luis Bolanos (COL)	2	9	–
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	3	10	–
Akihigo Nago (JAP)	4	5	–
Eric Morel (USA)	5	3	3
Raffy Montalban (PHIL)	6	–	–
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	7	1	10
Heriberto Ruiz (MEX)	8	–	11
Keiji Yamaguchi (JAP)	9	–	–
Genaro Garcia (MEX)	10	–	–
Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	2	5
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	–	4	–
Felix Machado (VEN)	–	6	12
Evangelo Perez (PAN)	–	7	8
Sornpichai Kratchingdaeng (THAI)	–	8	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Ratanachai Sor Voraphin (THAI)	19	12	6
Jose Rafael Sosa (ARG)	20	–	7
Med Lukchaopormasak (THAI)	–	–	9

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Manny Pacquiao (PHIL)	C	–	–
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	C	–
Irene Pacheco (COL)	–	–	C
Chatchai Sasakul (THAI)	1	–	–
David Guerault (FRA)	2	5	1
Alex Ali Baba (GHA)	3	–	11
Oscar Arciniega (MEX)	4	–	–
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	5	8	4
Panieng Sasiprabha Okuda (THAI)	6	–	–
Gabriel Mira (MEX)	7	–	–
Mike Trejo (USA)	8	9	5
Dimitri Kirilov (RUS)	9	–	–
Medgoen 3K Battery (THAI)	10	–	–
Jose Bonilla (VEN)	–	1	–
Gilberto Gonzalez (VEN)	–	2	10
Denkaosaen Kaowitch (THAI)	–	3	–
Jesper Jensen (DEN)	–	4	–
Panieng Okuda (THAI)	–	6	–
Hugo Soto (ARG)	–	7	–
Gabriel Munoz (MEX)	–	10	–
Pedro Pena (USA)	–	–	2
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	–	–	3
Eric Morel (USA)	–	–	6
Isidro Garcia (USA)	11	–	7
Zoltan Lunka (TUR)	25	–	8
Gerson Guerrero (MEX)	12	–	9

JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	C	–	–
Pichitnoi C. Siriwat (THAI)	–	C	–
Will Grigsby (USA)	–	–	C
Yosam Choi (KOR)	1	10	–
Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)	2	4	–
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	3	1	2
Hidenobu Honda (JAP)	4	3	–
Bebis Mendoza (COL)	5	–	–
Ridchichai Kiatprabhas (THAI)	6	–	–
Oscar Andrade (MEX)	7	–	12
Gabriel Munoz (MEX)	8	–	–
Ladislao Vazquez (MEX)	9	–	–
Jose Luis Zepeda (MEX)	10	–	–
Medngon 3K Battery (THAI)	–	2	–
Pongsaklek Nakornton (THAI)	–	5	–
Nelson Dieppa (DR)	17	6	8
Yura Dimas (MON)	–	7	–
Jose Sanjuanelo (COL)	–	8	–
Jake Matlala (SA)	–	9	–
Pedro Rodriguez (COL)	–	–	1
Fernando Montiel (MEX)	–	–	3
Gill Ikeda (JAP)	–	–	4
Anis Roga (INDO)	–	–	5
Ratanapol Sor Vorapin (THAI)	–	–	6
Asdrubal Velasquez (COL)	–	–	7
Osvaldo Guerrero (MEX)	12	–	9
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	–	–	10

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	C	–
Zolani Petelo (SA)	–	–	C
Jose Antonio Aguirre (MEX)	1	11	–
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	2	–	2
Daniel Reyes (COL)	3	8	6
Satoru Abe (JAP)	4	5	–
Jun Arlos (PHIL)	5	–	–
Erdene Chuluun (MON)	6	–	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	7	7	–
Yasuo Tokimitsu (JAP)	8	–	–
Udomdet Porpaoin (THAI)	9	9	–
Hiroshi Nakajima (JAP)	10	–	8
Jose Garcia (COL)	–	1	–
Noel Arumbulet (VEN)	–	2	–
Songkram Porpaoin (THAI)	–	3	–
Hurricane Chulun (IND)	–	4	–
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	6	–
Hiroshi Matsumoto (JAP)	20	10	–
Luis Lazarte (ARG)	–	–	1
Mickey Cantwell (GB)	–	–	3
Rocky Palma (JAP)	–	–	4
Faisol Akbar (INDO)	–	–	5
Alberto Rossel (PERU)	–	–	7
Rocky Lim (TWN)	–	–	9
Juan Herrera (COL)	–	–	10

CLASSIC

THE MIDDLE MAN

One of the ring's outstanding fighters and most competent referees tells his story as an aftermath of the death of Benny "Kid" Paret

By Ruby Goldstein, N.Y. State Athletic Commission Referee (As Told To Lester Bromberg)

I don't remember where I first saw it, but I recall once reading where someone said: "A referee makes important decisions in a matter of seconds and then spends years wondering if he made the right decision."

Like a lot of things you come across, there is some truth to that remark. And some of it isn't true. For example, even the quick rulings don't just happen. Every time a referee acts one way or the other, it is because of some specific thing he has noticed and because experience tells him he should act.

Let's consider the second part of the thought: In 20 years of refereeing in New York State, I have had to make many important decisions in a matter of seconds, but I can truthfully tell you that thereafter I never spent time wondering if it was the right decision. I wouldn't have made that decision if I wasn't sure it was the right one.

Don't get me wrong—I'm very human, my life has not been perfect. What I am saying is that, for every single thing I have done as a referee, I have had a reason that satisfied me at the time as being logical and fair to all

Ruby Goldstein (right), one of boxing's top referees in the 1960s, emerges from a New York State Athletic Commission hearing with commission counsel James Fussca. Goldstein defended his action in not stopping the Benny Paret-Emile Griffith championship fight sooner.

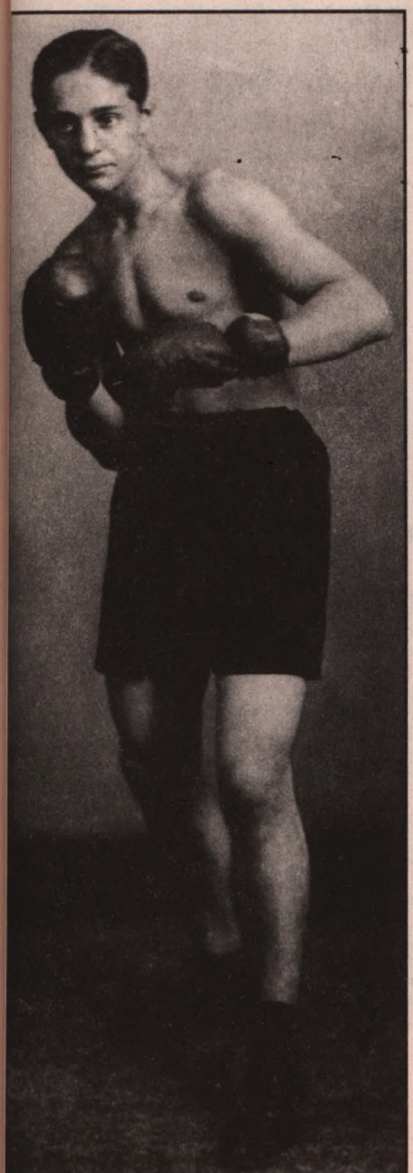
From THE RING, August 1962

concerned—the fighters, the public, the commission.

I am concerned particularly about the commission. I am representing my chairman, General Krulewitch, and his confidence in me. If what I do is generally approved of, the people in Albany will let the General know his chairmanship is going smoothly. If it should happen that I'm criticized severely—and I'm happy to say I haven't put him or any previous chairman on the spot—I would be hurting him even more than myself.

By this time, you readers must be saying, "What's Goldstein got on his chest?"

Goldstein, pictured receiving an award from the Boxing Writers' Association, said people frequently told him they would not be able to think that clearly in tense situations while officiating a fight. "I have to admire you for the way you face it," Goldstein said he was often told.



Goldstein was once an outstanding fighter, known as "The Jewel Of The Ghetto." Goldstein always liked to talk about boxing and the wonderful things he received in life because of his involvement in the sport.

Well, I always like to talk about boxing and the wonderful, exciting things that have come to me through boxing. It is the toughest and hardest of sports, and it has had its sad side, always will, I guess, but the darkest side is never so bad that the good doesn't come out on top in the long run.

In this connection, I'm referring to the death of Benny Paret after the fight with Emile Griffith for which I was the third man.

All the facts were officially investigated, as you know, and the report by the commission was received by Governor Rockefeller.

What I think would be new to you is the way people on the outside reacted to the fight when I met them later. I am, and have been for some years now, a "missionary" for Schenley, and, as such, run into hundreds of fans in the course of any week's round of business visits.

They surprised me, they didn't second-guess, they wanted to hear the facts as I knew them. They listened patiently as I recalled the details as best I could remember them. Maybe they would have another question or two. But in most cases the conversation finished with an understanding on their part that I had taken nothing for granted and acted as quickly and fairly as the situation called for me to do.

The "good" I was talking about was the knowledge they got of the problems that face a referee when he's in there alone with the fighters.

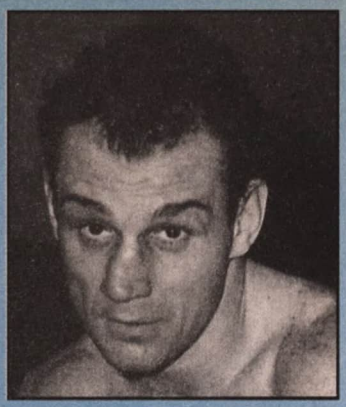
For the first time, many came to realize what it was all about ... how the sway of a fight changes from minute to minute, sometimes from second to second, and that this could require an almost immediate decision that also ought to have reasoned judgment behind it.

A few of the folks were honest enough to say: "Ruby, I wouldn't be able to think that clearly in such a rush, I'd freeze, I don't know what I'd do. I have to admire you or any other referee for the way you face it."

Well, I accept the compliment upon behalf of myself and all the other referees. We're entitled to it. In a way, I'm like a justice in court; I've got to decide what's right and what's wrong. But I can't reserve decision and go home to study the question in my law books, to check on who did what in some case resembling this one years back. I've got to come up with the answer without even a moment's delay.

All this time, a referee is between two important responsibilities, and

THE RING RATINGS, August 1962



Paul Pender

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Floyd Patterson, Scarsdale, NY
1. **Sonny Liston**, Philadelphia, PA
2. **Eddie Machen**, Portland, OR
3. **Zora Folley**, Chandler, AZ
4. **Ingemar Johansson**, Sweden
5. **Archie Moore**, San Diego, CA
6. **Robert Cleroux**, Canada
7. **Henry Cooper**, England
8. **Cleveland Williams**, Houston, TX
9. **Cassius Clay**, Louisville, KY
10. **Willie Pastrano**, Miami, FL

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Harold Johnson, Philadelphia, PA
1. **Giulio Rinaldi**, Italy
2. **Doug Jones**, New York, NY
3. **Mauro Mina**, Peru
4. **Eddie Cotton**, Seattle, WA
5. **Gustav Scholz**, Germany
6. **Chic Calderwood**, Scotland
7. **Bobo Olson**, Honolulu, HI
8. **Erich Schoppner**, Germany
9. **Peter Gumpert**, Germany
10. **Allen Thomas**, Chicago, IL

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Paul Pender, Brookline, MA
1. **Gene Fullmer**, West Jordan, UT
2. **Dick Tiger**, Nigeria
3. **Terry Downes**, England
4. **Joey Giardello**, Cherry Hill, NJ
5. **Joey Giambra**, Buffalo, NY
6. **Henry Hank**, Detroit, MI
7. **Denny Moyer**, Portland, OR
8. **Jesse Smith**, Philadelphia, PA
9. **Luis Folledo**, Spain
10. **George Benton**, Philadelphia, PA

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Emile Griffith, New York, NY
1. **Ralph Dupas**, New Orleans, LA
2. **Luis Rodriguez**, Miami, FL
3. **Duilio Loi**, Italy
4. **Jorge Fernandez**, Argentina
5. **Ted Wright**, Detroit, MI
6. **Brian Curvis**, Wales
7. **Curtis Cokes**, Dallas, TX
8. **Rip Randall**, Dallas, TX
9. **Guy Sumlin**, Pritchard, AL
10. **Bob Fosmire**, Rockaway, NJ

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Carlos Ortiz, New York, NY
1. **Joe Brown**, Houston, TX
2. **Carlos Hernandez**, Venezuela
3. **Doug Vaillant**, Cuba
4. **Dave Charnley**, England
5. **Flash Elorde**, Philippines
6. **Eddie Perkins**, Chicago, IL
7. **Kenny Lane**, Muskegon, MI
8. **Teruo Kosaka**, Japan
9. **Alfredo Urbina**, Mexico
10. **Paolo Rosi**, New York, NY

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Davey Moore, Springfield, OH
1. **Sugar Ramos**, Cuba
2. **Rafiu King**, Nigeria
3. **Kazuo Takayama**, Japan
4. **Howard Winstone**, Wales
5. **Sergio Caprari**, Italy
6. **Gracieux Lamperti**, France
7. **Jet Bally**, Philippines
8. **Danny Valdez**, Los Angeles, CA
9. **Herman Duncan**, Los Angeles, CA
10. **Harold Gomes**, Providence, RI

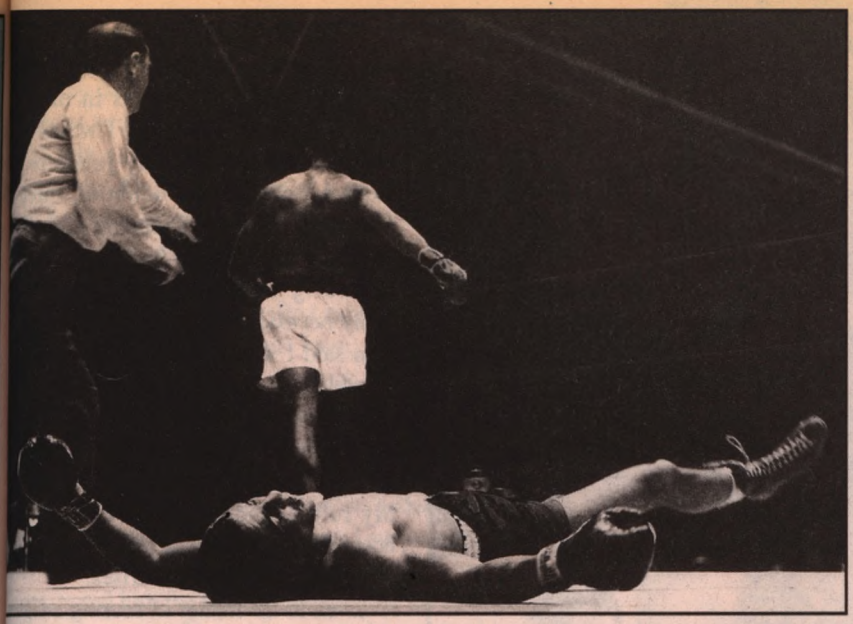
BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Eder Jofre, Brazil
1. **Joe Medel**, Mexico
2. **Johnny Caldwell**, Ireland
3. **Piero Rollo**, Italy
4. **Alphonse Halimi**, France
5. **Ismael Laguna**, Panama
6. **Pierre Cossemyns**, Belgium
7. **Freddie Gilroy**, Ireland
8. **Herman Marques**, Stockton, CA
9. **Carlos Hernandez**, Mexico
10. **Katsutoshi Aoki**, Japan

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Pone Kingpetch, Thailand
1. **Ramon Arias**, Venezuela
2. **Mimun Ben Ali**, Spain
3. **Sadao Yaoita**, Japan
4. **Salvatore Burruni**, Italy
5. **Chatchai Laemfapha**, Thailand
6. **Kyo Noguchi**, Japan
7. **Pascual Perez**, Argentina
8. **Chucho Hernàndez**, Mexico
9. **Horacio Accavallo**, Argentina
10. **Jean Guerard**, France

they're on opposite sides of the street. One is the fighter's rights as a competitor, the other is the referee's obligation to avoid getting the fighter hurt if he can.

The conflict is tough enough in an ordinary fight, but it is much worse when a championship is involved. On one hand, you have a man who undoubtedly has struggled to get the title. It is an asset worth "X" number of dollars to him. He would be unhappy if he lost it on any account; if he believes he was deprived of it because a referee acted in panic, he would be bitterly resentful. On the other hand, the referee is a neutral who has the duty of seeing to it that the challenger gets no less fair opportunity than the champion. And he has his obligation of safety for both fighters. When anything goes wrong, he will catch it, whether he's to blame or not.

I have never allowed myself to worry. I meet the problems of any fight



Goldstein said he never doubted a decision once he made it. He refereed the Ray Robinson-Randy Turpin rematch in New York City and did not second-guess his 10th-round stoppage of the fight, which gave Robinson back the middleweight title.

s they come up and on the basis of my xperience.

As I said earlier, I don't doubt a decision once I have made it. To fret over it would mean I wasn't sure of myself hen I acted. But I usually have been ure and know why I did what I did.

This applies to a fight like Randy Turpin and Ray Robinson. There was an nstance where Turpin, a Britisher, was efending the middleweight championship e had won from Robinson, an American, n England. If you recall it, Ray had been n front until he got a bad eye cut. Randy saw what it could mean and egan working on it. There was a chance his could stop Robinson. As it happened, he rallied like the great champion e was. Funny, I called him champion, although he was an ex—at the moment. But he carried himself as if he were still champion.

Anyway, Robinson got Turpin against the ropes late in the 10th round nd was pounding him without a sign rom Turpin he could get off the ropes r even fight back. The punishment was prolonged and the picture clear in my mind, so I moved in and ended the fight.

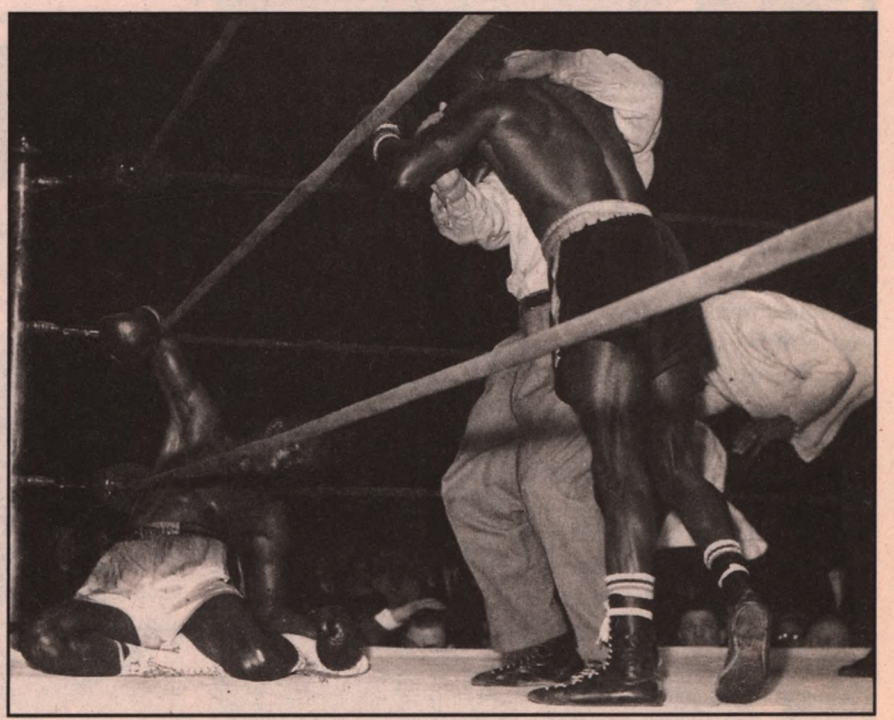
When the announced time showed the round was almost over, there was a lot of noise from Turpin's followers. Why hadn't I let him finish the round with so little time left, etc.? They made no sense. I don't carry a watch and I'm not a timekeeper. I had made up my mind on what I'd seen, simply and directly.

By the same token, suppose Robinson's eye had gotten a lot worse when things were riding so high for Turpin? I would have been just as definite in stopping it and giving Turpin the TKO. There's only one question involved in stopping a fight, so far as I'm concerned—do I think the situation calls for it?

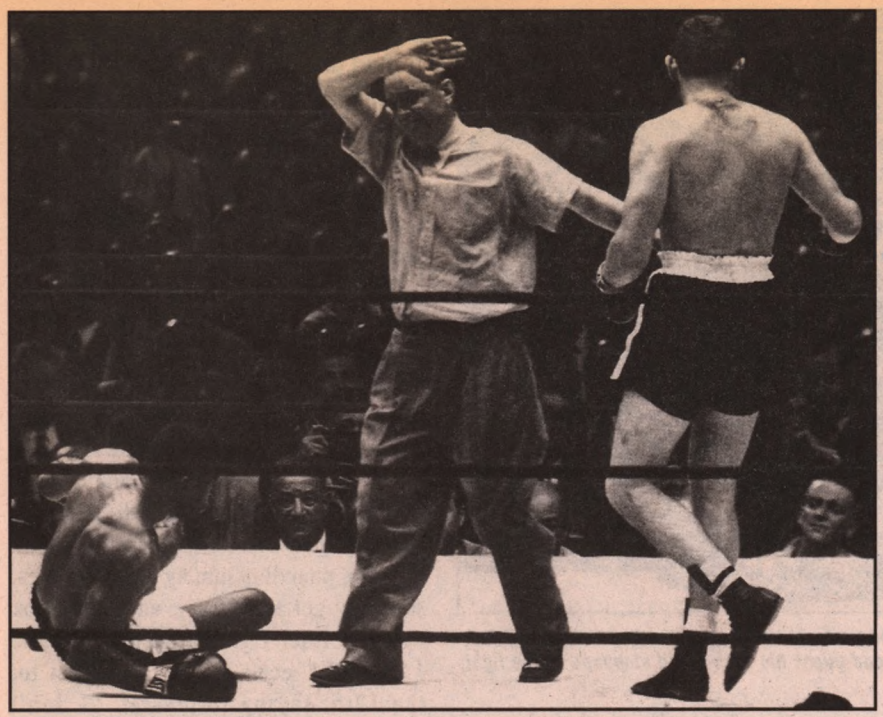
And, so, coming around to the Paret fight, I have to tell that, as I've already told some, I acted at the exact moment I felt I should. Bear in mind, I didn't have the benefit of hindsight, nor could I reasonably have anticipated something nobody sensed at the time.

On the facts in the case, Paret was a strong boy who had come back from trouble in almost every important fight he had. If you remember, in the sixth round he had Griffith on the floor just before the bell. Some thought he might have knocked Griffith out if the knockdown had come 30 seconds sooner. Then there was the 10th, when Griffith, pounding him against the ropes, suddenly got arm-weary, and Paret took over. Neither fighter did much in the 11th, and I recall, as they came out for the 12th, saying to myself: "I don't know which one looks more tired than the other."

There were two sharp punches by Griffith, and then the situation on the ropes developed. Don't forget, Paret did not fall into the ropes. He went into the corner on his own. That had been a favorite move of his, both in other fights and in this one.



Goldstein knew Paret had displayed a tendency in previous fights to come back from trouble. When Griffith landed a series of stiff shots in the 12th round, Goldstein finally stepped in to stop the bout—but not before the damage to Paret was done.



Goldstein stopped the first encounter between Ingemar Johansson and Floyd Patterson, but not until after heavyweight champion Patterson hit the canvas seven times in three rounds. Goldstein was later criticized for allowing the fight to go on as long as he did.

I was not taking anything for granted, though, and was watching closely. I saw Griffith close in and begin to whip over short punches that drove Paret's head through the ropes. Paret was not off his feet. It was still entirely conceivable he might suddenly snap back. But, when another cluster of stiff shots by Griffith came without any hint Paret could fight back, I jumped in and pulled Griffith off. It was then and only then that he sagged down.

Following the fight, I read the comment of a few newspapermen, who said: "Goldstein stopped it five punches too late." This, to me, is strange logic. Could they honestly tell me that they saw a so-called cutoff point while it was happening? Here was action, fast and furious, and a man with a reputation for toughness undergoing the same thing he had outlasted time and again without ill effects. I had not seen any visible sign of coming collapse and I will stack my background of observation against any other man's.

What developed, as inevitably does, is a search on the part of well-meaning people to discover a possible preventive that could have been overlooked or disregarded. It is their conscience, I guess, telling them that they ought to have done something to keep it from happening.

I have a conscience, too. I also have a level head. With both, I am equipped to cope with emergencies in the ring. Had there been reason to, I would have stopped the fight at any juncture, let alone a ticklish, and doubtful, three or four seconds before I actually did.

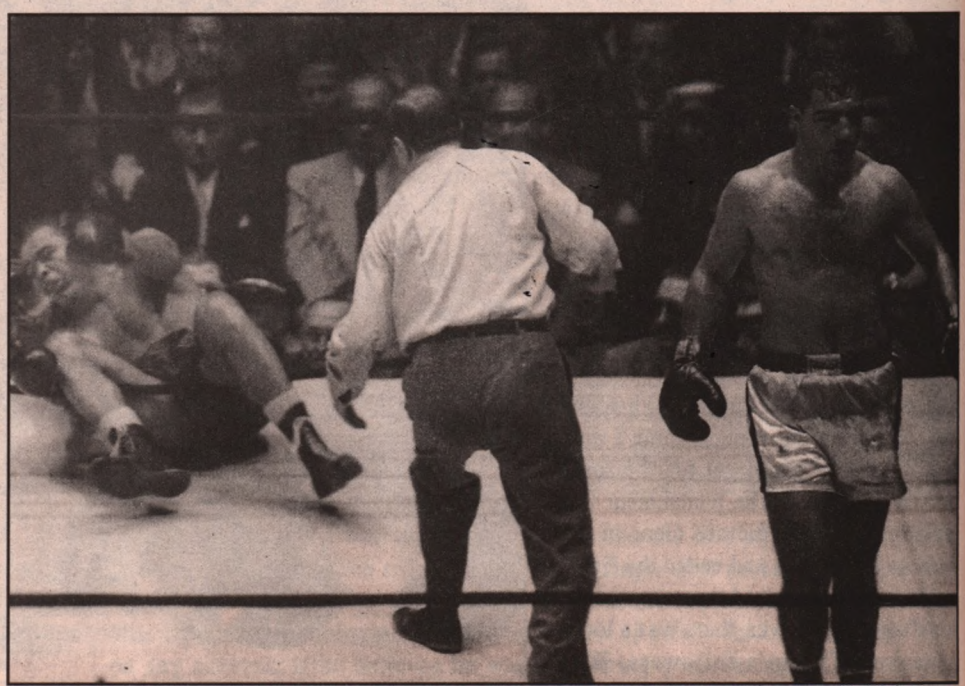
Those of you who have followed my refereeing career know there have been many occasions on which the same ones who said I was too late have rapped my knuckles for ending fights too soon.

It is contradictory criticism, making me appear inconsistent. But, in fact, they are the ones who are inconsistent. My rule of judgment has not changed, because I purposely have kept it flexible to meet each crisis as it arises.

Even in the matter of scoring a fight, I have tried earnestly to avoid going in with preconceived notions. Boxer or puncher, I sincerely have no preference. Many of my critics declare before a fight, "I can't stand so-and-so, he runs too much," or they'll say, "so-and-so can't win a fight in my book unless he scores a knockout, he can't box a little bit."

My opinions are formed only as a fight unfolds. And, to me, the fighters are not even personalities I know, they are A against B, or something like that.

As you probably recall, I was in the



Goldstein used to tour with Joe Louis during World War II, and he was the third man in the ring when "The Brown Bomber" met Rocky Marciano. After Marciano knocked Louis through the ropes in the eighth, Goldstein stopped the fight so Louis' record would read "TKO" instead of "KO."

Army during the last war, with Joe Louis. We made a three-month tour of bases in the Aleutians. He'd box, I'd referee. Or I'd stay outside the ring and have a running repartee with Joe for the benefit of the spectators.

All this association on tour built a warm friendship between us. And I don't know a person I like or respect more. But friendship is one thing, officiating is another.

When I was assigned to referee the first fight between Louis and Jersey Joe Walcott in the Garden back in 1947, I might have seen Joe for the first time in my life. That's the frame of mind I had, and still have, for refereeing. And, to repeat, it was apart from my personal fondness for Joe.

You must know how the fight went. Walcott had Louis down twice. Jersey Joe boxed smartly. Only in the latter part of the bout, when he seemed to be sitting on a lead, did Walcott taper off. I considered Walcott a clean-cut winner and voted for him. To my surprise—and I suspect, to Louis'—the other two officials, the judges, Marty Monroe and Frank Forbes, voted him the fight and saved him his championship.

I got many compliments on my independent thinking that night. Also a few raps from people who believed I had let down my old buddy, Louis. I didn't feel he agreed with that.

When I did work the Louis-Marciano fight, there was a special intimacy because of friendship. As you know, Rocky knocked Joe through the ropes in the eighth round, and I stopped the fight without waiting for a count of 10.

I had my reasons, but I kept them to myself and never would have made them public if it hadn't been for a phone call I got a few days after the fight. It was from Irv Kupcinet, *Chicago Sun-Times* columnist and former sportswriter. He said he had been watching the fight with friends and was puzzled by my failure to finish the count. Why hadn't I?

"Kup," I said, "Joe Louis is an old friend of mine. And you try to be kind to friends, without violating rules. So, by stopping the fight, I made it necessary to put the letter T in front of KO. In other words, they couldn't say Joe was stiffened in what may have been his last fight [it was], they could only say he couldn't continue."

Kup thanked me and that was that. But it remains typical of boxing, where there's a mixture of emotions—happiness and unhappiness blended.

I came out of the Paret fight grieving for that poor unlucky boy, but also high in spirit because I knew I had made no mistakes in handling the fight.

I now can go forward as a referee with a full measure of confidence. I will work fights as often as the commission sees fit to use me and I will pursue my same old policy—to make my judgments fit each new situation.

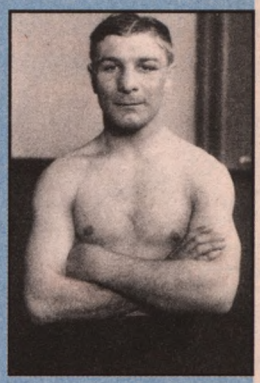
There have been a few strangers who had asked me after the tragedy: "Won't that be in your mind and make you gun-shy?"

You notice I used the word strangers. Nobody who knew me would say that. And I'm glad to say most of the people who follow fights regularly know me as a man dedicated to boxing—and its tough going as well as its glory road. Ring the bell, I'm ready. ■

[Editor's note: Goldstein never worked another professional fight after the Paret tragedy.]

The Cover: THE RING paid a visit to the training camp of Sonny Liston prior to his heavyweight championship fight against Floyd Patterson. Liston felt confident he would wrest the title from Patterson. Despite fighting only twice in two years leading to the title shot, Liston vowed he would be a fighting champion—like Joe Louis.

Battling Barney: THE RING took a pictorial look at the colorful career of Barnet David Rosofsky—better known as Barney Ross, the former world lightweight, junior welterweight, and welterweight champion. Ross was a Marine hero during World War II and he went on to become a successful businessman after boxing.



Solving The Puzzle: THE RING Detective explored the controversial 1925 fight between Charley Rosenberg (pictured) and Eddie Shea for the world bantamweight title. Rosenberg seemed to emerge the rightful winner by fourth-round kayo, but the New York Boxing Commission labelled the affair "suspicious" for reasons that were not entirely clear.

Ingo Regains His Sting-o: Former world heavyweight champ Ingemar Johansson proved he was still alive and well with an eighth-round knockout of Dick Richardson of Wales to regain the European heavyweight championship. The question that hovered around Johansson afterward was whether another chance at the world title was in his future.

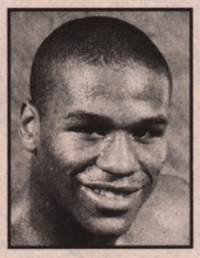
Fighter Of The Month: Pone Kingpetch of Thailand, the world flyweight champion, successfully defended his laurels with a unanimous 15-round decision win over Japanese challenger Kyo Noguchi. Kingpetch was presented with a gaudy gold trophy in honor of his third title defense.

LOOKING AHEAD

By Eric Raskin

NO Y2K PROBLEMS FOR MAYWEATHER

In 1998, **Floyd Mayweather** took on the best opposition in the junior lightweight division, dominated every time out, and took home THE RING's Fighter of the Year award. But in '99, while the WBC 130-pound champ has been every bit as dominant as he was the previous year, he hasn't gotten his hands on any marquee opponents, and subsequently, he has no shot at being named the Fighter of the Year. With a new year right around the corner, though, Team Mayweather believes 2000 will be another blockbuster for "Pretty Boy."



Mayweather: Big plans for 2000

Sometime early in the year, Mayweather will begin to pursue his goal of title unification. Undefeated IBF champ **Roberto Garcia**, assuming he gets past his dangerous mandatory defense against **Diego Corrales** this fall, is expected to be Mayweather's first opponent of 2000. And even if Corrales dethrones him, a unification match would still be easy to arrange because Corrales, like Mayweather, is promoted by Top Rank.

"The winner of Garcia-Corrales is the most natural opponent for Floyd," said Top Rank Executive Vice President **Todd DuBoef**. "[WBA champion] **Lakva Sim** has also expressed an interest in coming to the U.S. to unify. Floyd's plan is to go right out next year and unify the 130-pound division, then move up and fight [WBC lightweight champ] **Stevie Johnston**."

Johnston, universally recognized as the best at 135 pounds, is another Top Rank fighter, and both he and HBO have expressed a strong desire to make that fight happen in 2000. Of course, that would mean giving up whatever 130-pound titles Mayweather has accrued and abandoning the goal he'd announced earlier this year of breaking **Joe Louis'** record of 25 consecutive title defenses.

"Well, that thing about Louis' record, that was said, but it wasn't really logical thinking," said **Floyd Mayweather Sr.**, the champ's father and trainer. "Joe Louis was a heavyweight, so he didn't have any weight restrictions. Little Floyd's still growing. He might end up at 140 and be at his best there. He's still gonna break the record, but it would have to be making 26 straight defenses at all those weights combined.

"Looking back, after my son beat **Genaro Hernandez** for the title, maybe we shouldn't have fought **Angel Manfredy** next. We should have fought mediocre guys first, because now, where's the money at? But that's in the past, and next year's gonna be a big year. We want the bright lights. The other champs are pretenders, and we want to get these titles unified."

LISTEN UP

Rosenblatt: Looking for revenge against Paz

Roy Jones isn't moving up to heavyweight just yet. The light heavy king will be making his first defense of the unified crown on November 6 in Biloxi, Mississippi, against WBC "interim" champ **Graciano Rocchigiani** of Germany. As if Rocchigiani wasn't already facing a daunting enough task in Jones, he'll also be trying to shake off a severe case of ring rust. The German hasn't fought since March 21, 1998, when he won a disputed decision over **Michael Nunn** ... **Vernon Forrest**, the welterweight contender who can't seem to find a decent opponent, will continue to keep busy by fighting on the undercard of **Michael Grant** vs. **Andrew Golota** on November 20. As we went to press, those in the running to face him included Puerto Rican veteran **Santos Cardona** and unbeaten but relatively mediocre prospect **Michael Covington** ... For all you grudge match lovers, on November 5, ESPN2's *Friday Night Fights* will be headlined by the rematch between **Vinny Pazienza** and **Dana Rosenblatt**. The super middleweight fight will take place at the Foxwoods Casino in Ledyard, Connecticut, where both have proven to be major draws. No word on whether the referee in this one will be given the option of wearing headgear.

FUTURE FIGHTS

By Art Manteris

VP/Director of Race and Sports Operations Las Vegas Hilton SuperBook

Las Vegas Hilton

Favorite	Underdog	Odds	The Skinny
Lennox Lewis	Evander Holyfield	9-5	No more miracles for "The Real Deal"
Michael Grant	Andrew Golota	5-1	Watch for Golota to panic
Kostya Tszyu	Terronn Millett	6-1	Tszyu's looking as good as ever
Johnny Tapia	Jorge Eliecer Julio	2-1	Two of the slickest boxers around

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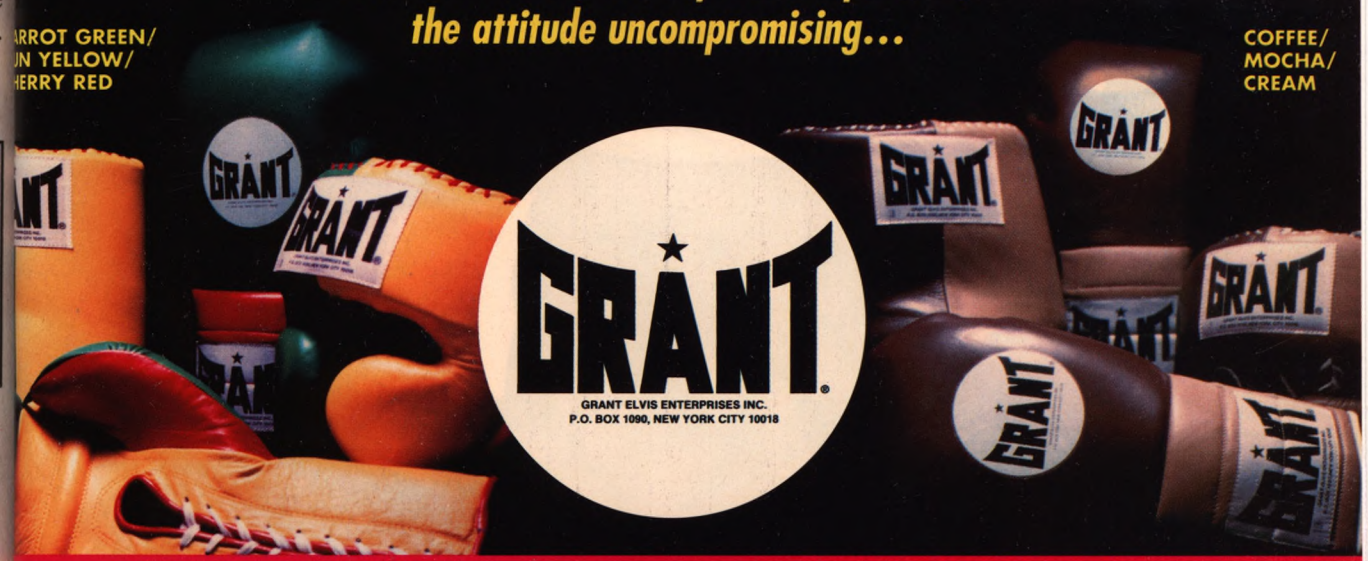

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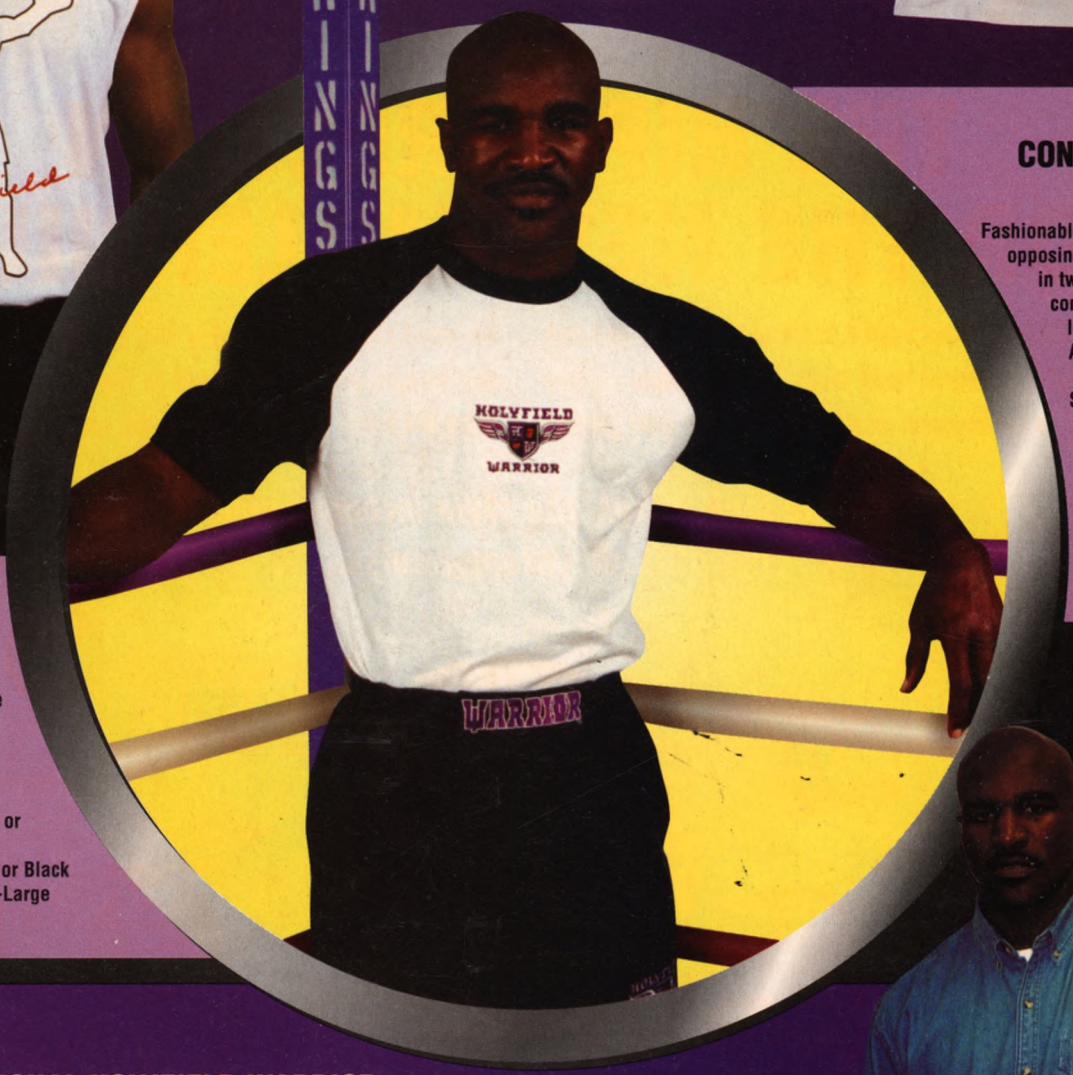

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